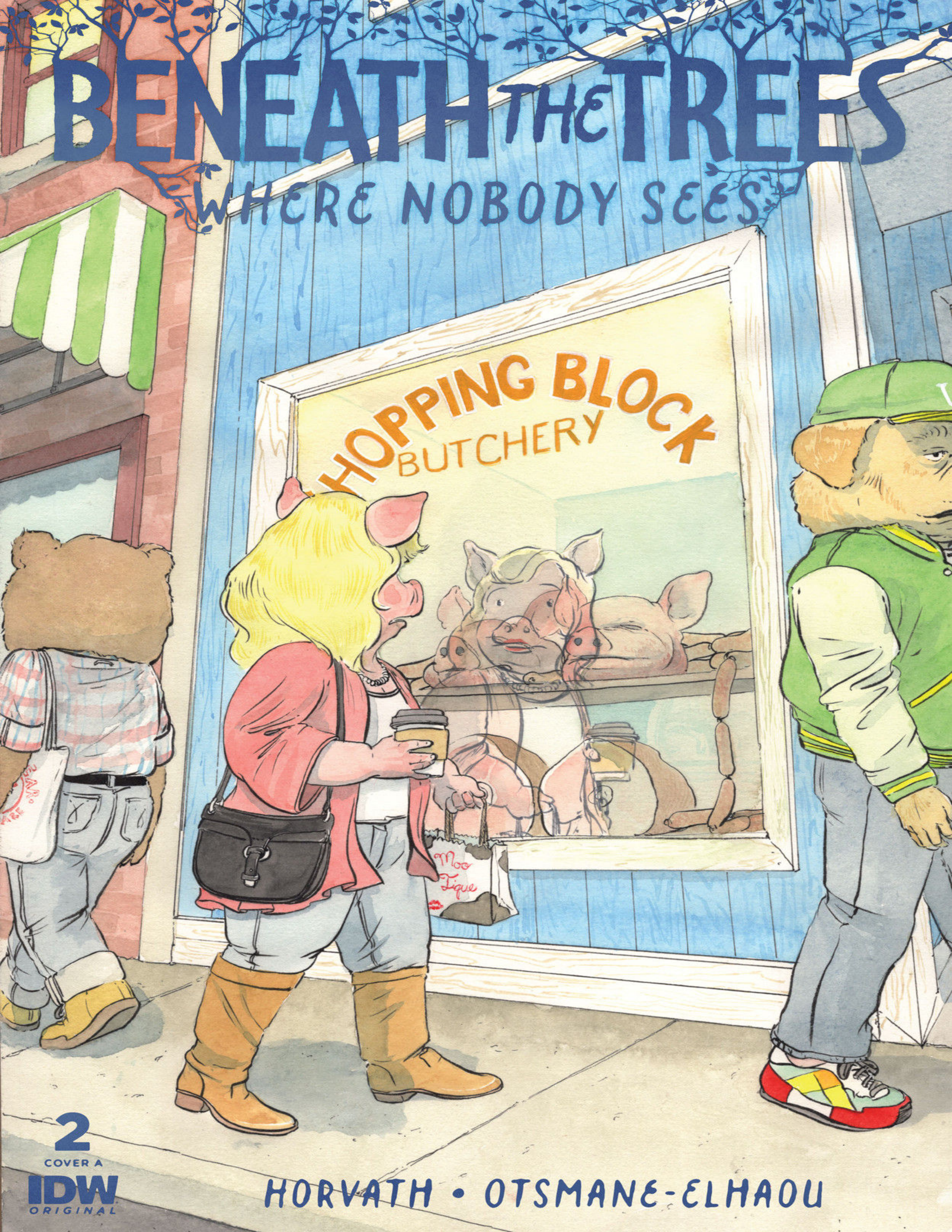
BENEATH THE TREES WHERE NOBODY SEES


HOPPING BLOCK
BUTCHERY
Moo Tique

2
COVER A

IDW ORIGINAL

HORVATH • OTSMANE-ELHAOU

EVENING EDITION

★★★

ALL THE
NEWS THAT'S
KEEN TO
BE SEEN

★★★

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LOCAL FOUND SLAIN IN GRISLY MURDER SCENE

THROGS OF SHOCKED PARADE-GOERS SUBJECTED TO UNSPEAKABLE SIGHT

MURDERER STILL AT LARGE

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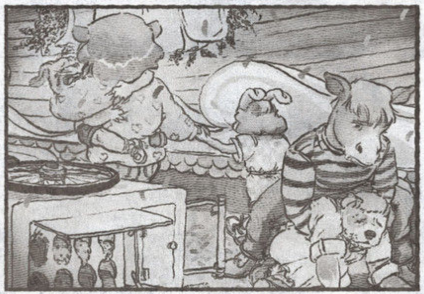

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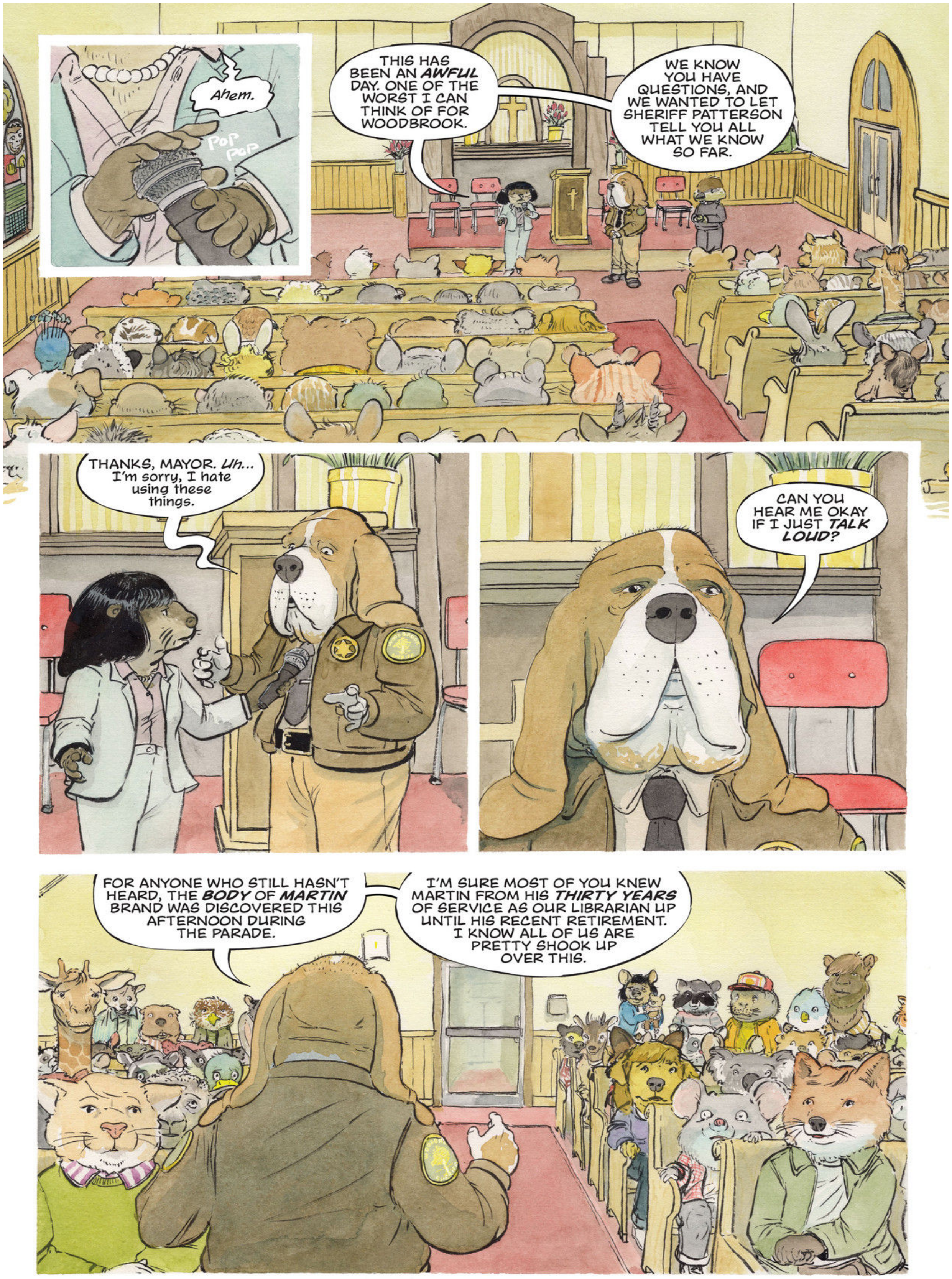
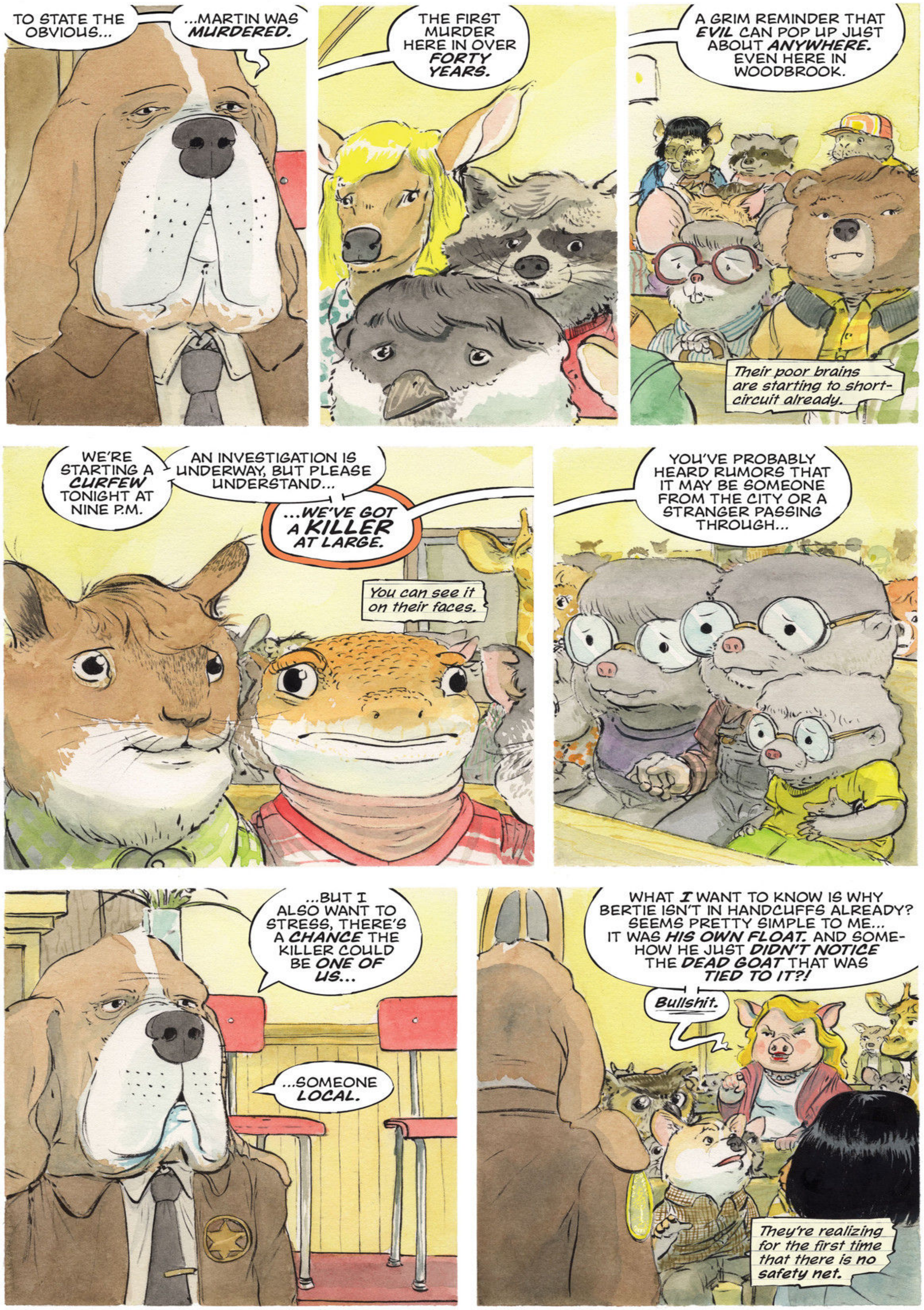
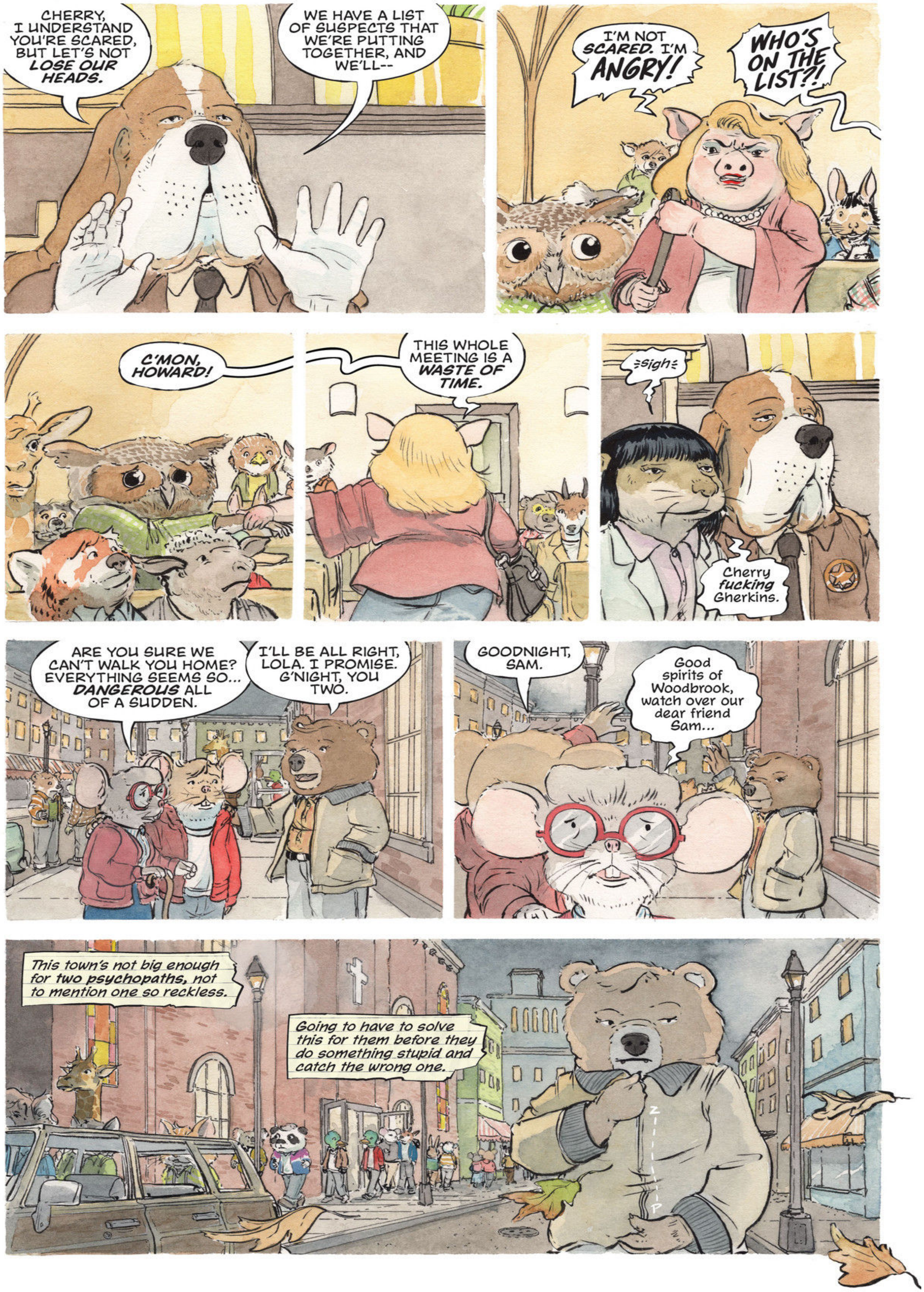
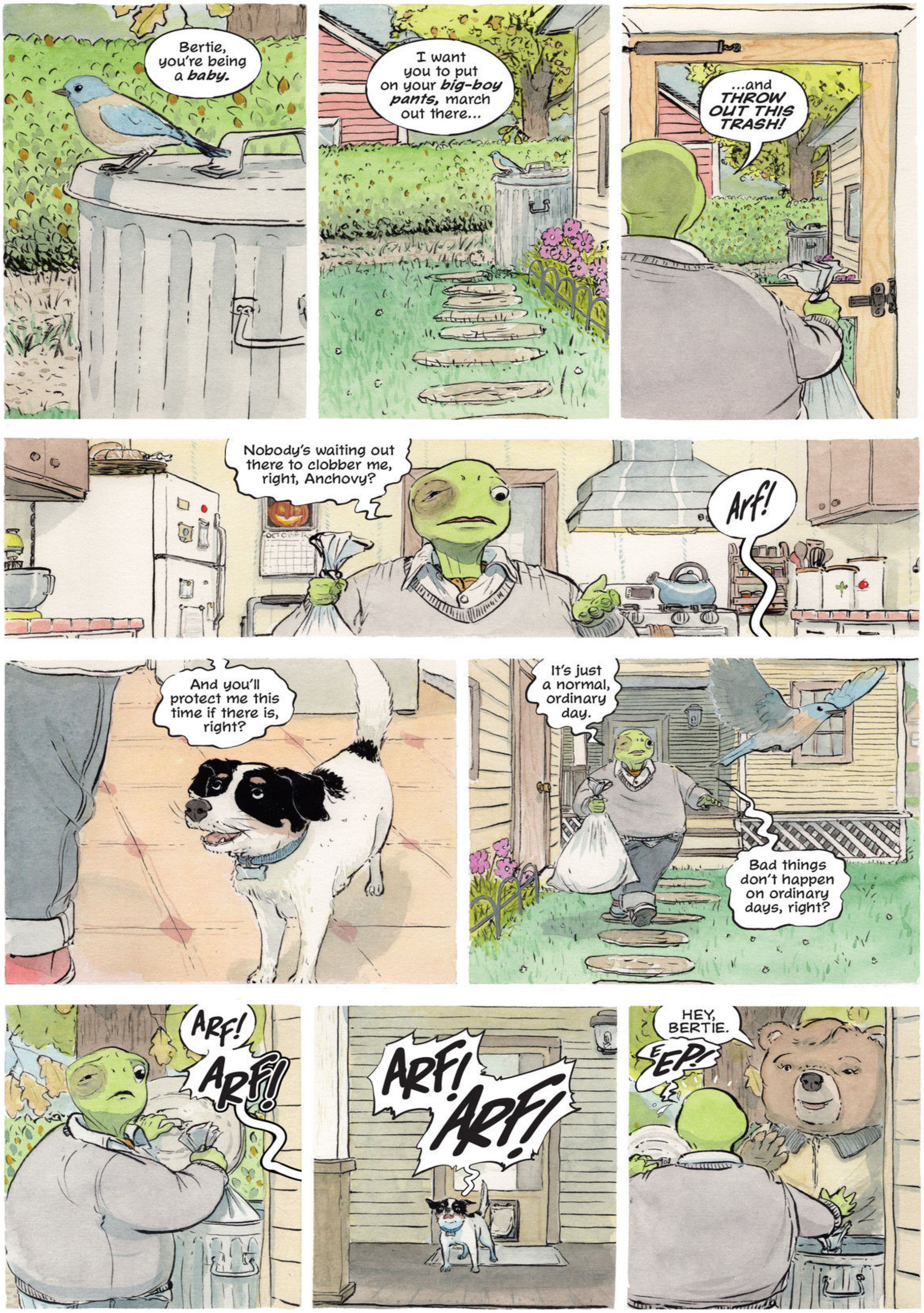
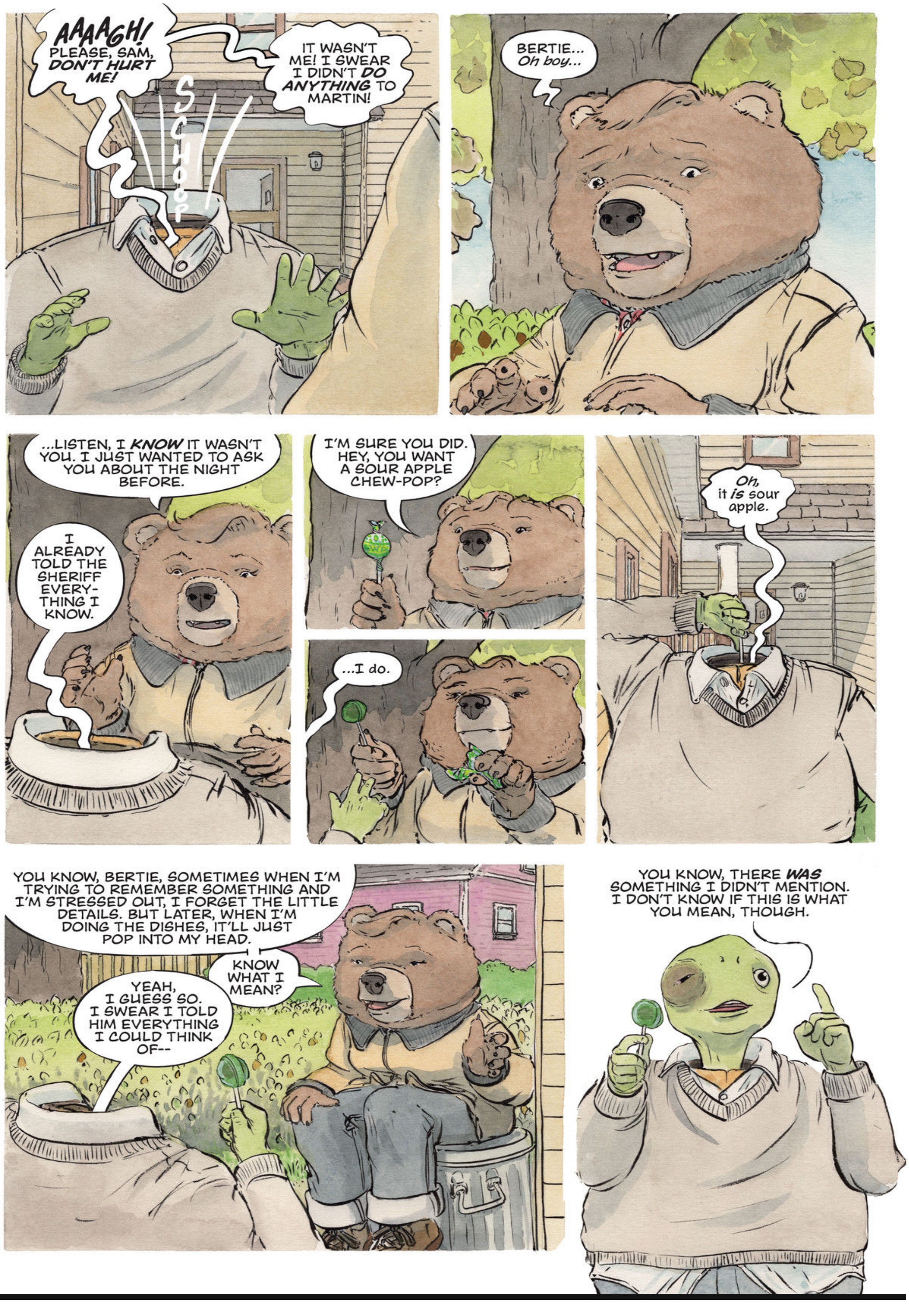
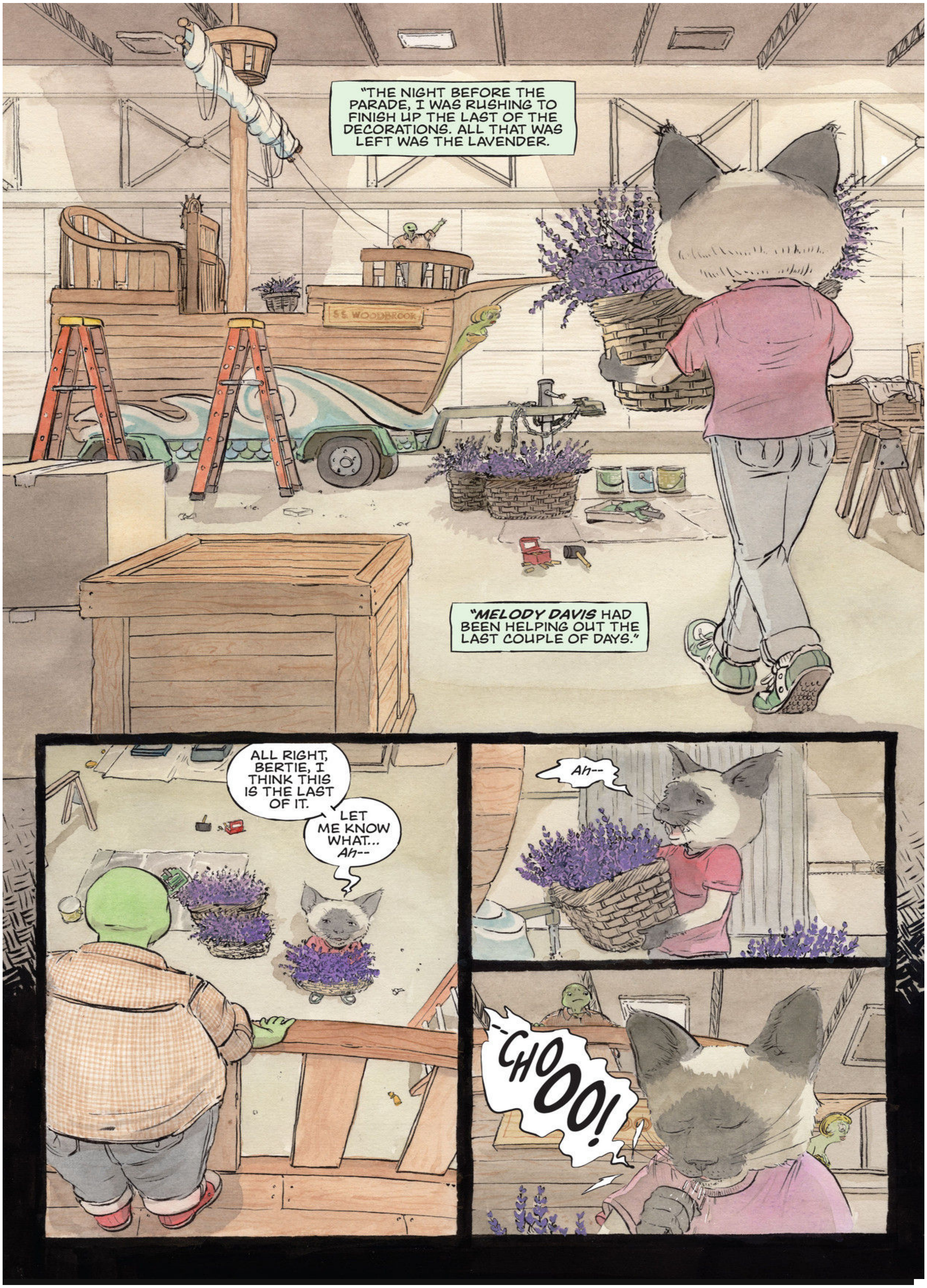

Ahem.
Pop pop
THIS HAS BEEN AN *AWFUL* DAY. ONE OF THE WORST I CAN THINK OF FOR WOODBROOK.
WE KNOW YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, AND WE WANTED TO LET SHERIFF PATTERSON TELL YOU ALL WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR.
THANKS, MAYOR. *Uh...* I'm sorry, I hate using these things.
CAN YOU HEAR ME OKAY IF I JUST *TALK LOUD?*
FOR ANYONE WHO STILL HASN'T HEARD, THE *BODY* OF *MARTIN* BRAND WAS DISCOVERED THIS AFTERNOON DURING THE PARADE.
I'M SURE MOST OF YOU KNEW MARTIN FROM HIS *THIRTY YEARS* OF SERVICE AS OUR LIBRARIAN UP UNTIL HIS RECENT RETIREMENT. I KNOW ALL OF US ARE PRETTY SHOOK UP OVER THIS.

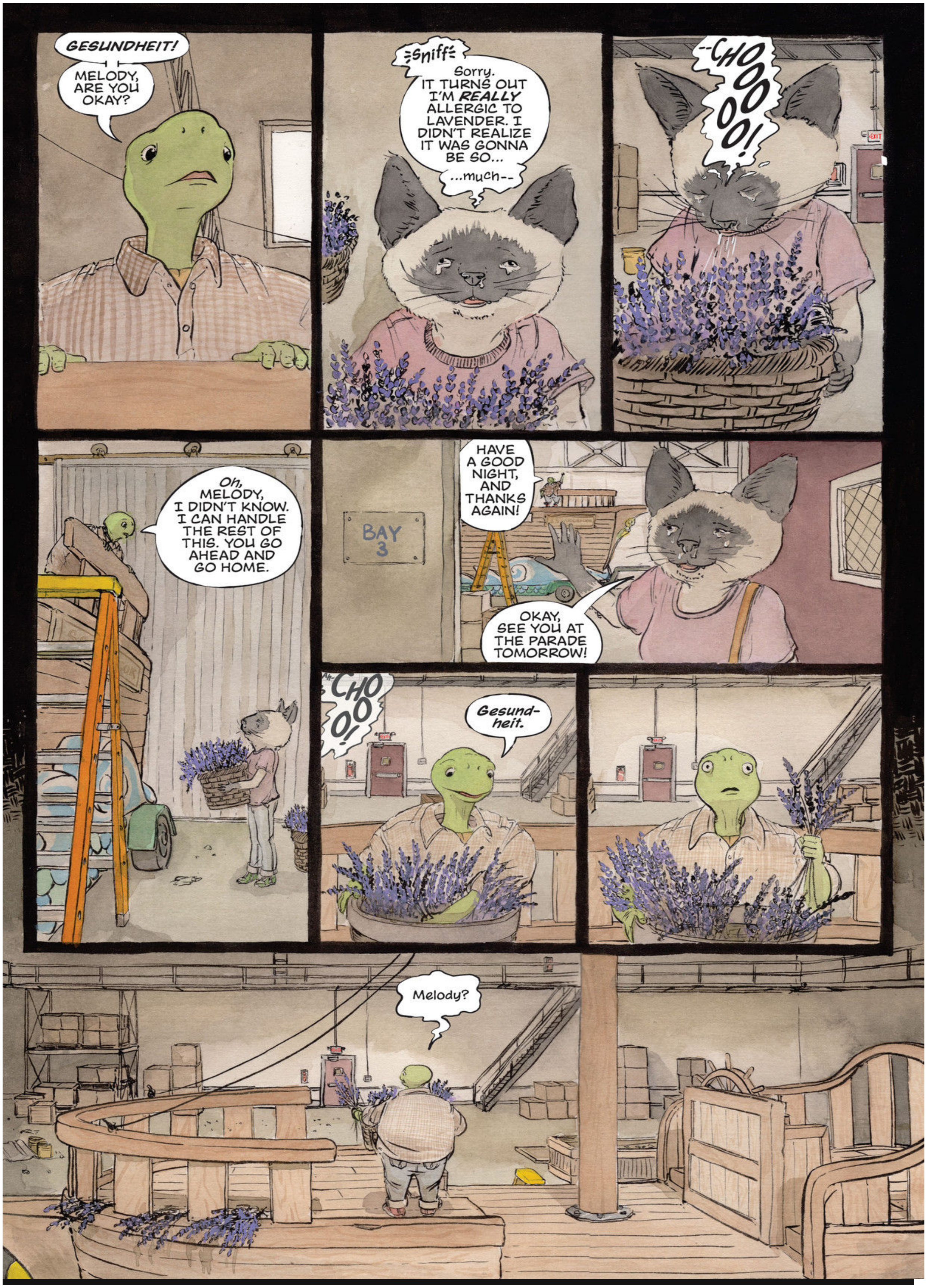

TO STATE THE OBVIOUS...
...MARTIN WAS **MURDERED.**
THE FIRST MURDER HERE IN OVER **FORTY YEARS.**
A GRIM REMINDER THAT **EVIL** CAN POP UP JUST ABOUT **ANYWHERE.** EVEN HERE IN WOODBROOK.
Their poor brains are starting to short-circuit already.
WE'RE STARTING A **CURFEW** TONIGHT AT NINE P.M.
AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY, BUT PLEASE UNDERSTAND...
...WE'VE GOT A KILLER AT LARGE.
You can see it on their faces.
YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD RUMORS THAT IT MAY BE SOMEONE FROM THE CITY OR A STRANGER PASSING THROUGH...
...BUT I ALSO WANT TO STRESS, THERE'S A **CHANCE** THE KILLER COULD BE **ONE OF US...**
...SOMEONE **LOCAL.**
WHAT **I** WANT TO KNOW IS WHY BERTIE ISN'T IN HANDCUFFS ALREADY? SEEMS PRETTY SIMPLE TO ME... IT WAS **HIS OWN FLOAT.** AND SOMEHOW HE JUST **DIDN'T NOTICE** THE **DEAD GOAT** THAT WAS **TIED TO IT?!**
Bullshit.
They're realizing for the first time that there is no safety net.

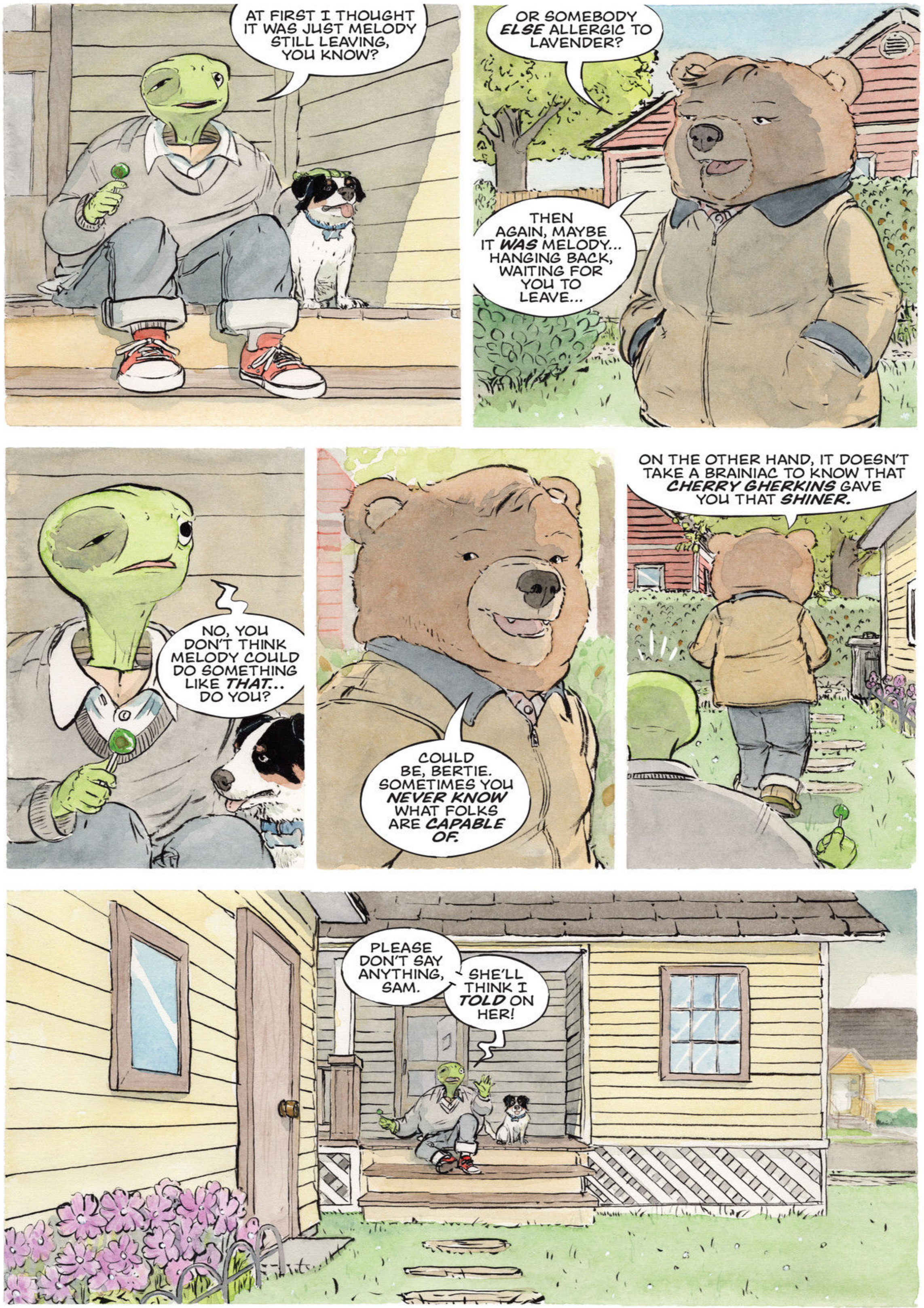

CHERRY, I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE SCARED, BUT LET'S NOT ***LOSE OUR HEADS.***
WE HAVE A LIST OF SUSPECTS THAT WE'RE PUTTING TOGETHER, AND WE'LL--
I'M NOT ***SCARED.*** I'M ***ANGRY!***
WHO'S ON THE LIST?!
C'MON, HOWARD!
THIS WHOLE MEETING IS A ***WASTE OF TIME.***
sigh
Cherry ***fucking*** Gherkins.
ARE YOU SURE WE CAN'T WALK YOU HOME? EVERYTHING SEEMS SO... ***DANGEROUS*** ALL OF A SUDDEN.
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, LOLA. I PROMISE. G'NIGHT, YOU TWO.
GOODNIGHT, SAM.
Good spirits of Woodbrook, watch over our dear friend Sam...
*This town's not big enough for two **psychopaths,** not to mention one so reckless.*
Going to have to solve this for them before they do something stupid and catch the wrong one.
ZIIIIIP

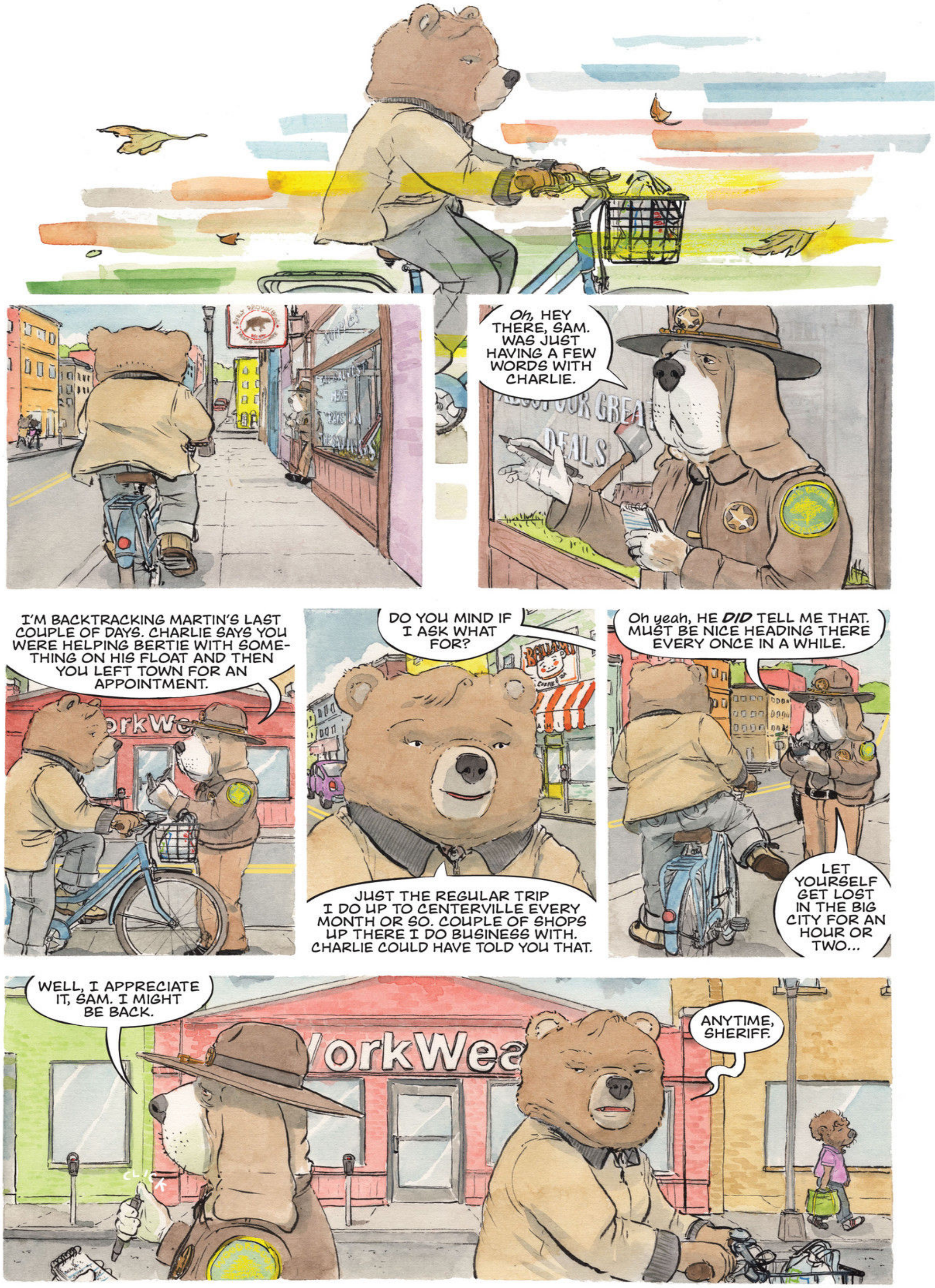

Bertie, you're being a *baby.*
I want you to put on your *big-boy pants,* march out there...
...and *THROW OUT THIS TRASH!*
Nobody's waiting out there to clobber me, right, Anchovy?
Arf!
And you'll protect me this time if there is, right?
It's just a normal, ordinary day.
Bad things don't happen on ordinary days, right?
ARF! ARF!
ARF! ARF!
HEY, BERTIE.
EEP!

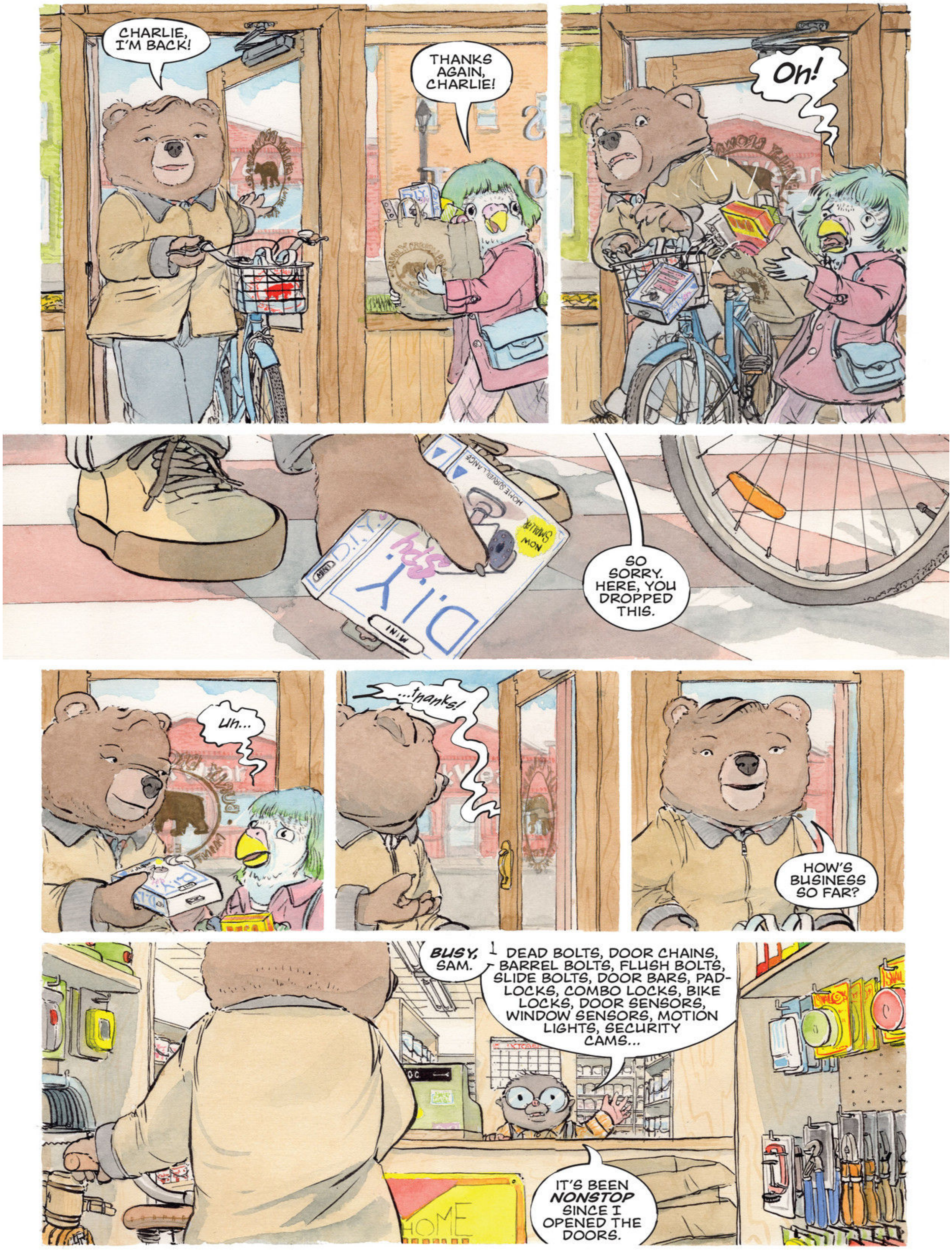

AAAAGH! PLEASE, SAM, DON'T HURT ME!
SCHOOP
IT WASN'T ME! I SWEAR I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO MARTIN!
BERTIE... Oh boy...
...LISTEN, I KNOW IT WASN'T YOU. I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE NIGHT BEFORE.
I ALREADY TOLD THE SHERIFF EVERY-THING I KNOW.
I'M SURE YOU DID. HEY, YOU WANT A SOUR APPLE CHEW-POP?
...I do.
Oh, it is sour apple.
YOU KNOW, BERTIE, SOMETIMES WHEN I'M TRYING TO REMEMBER SOMETHING AND I'M STRESSED OUT, I FORGET THE LITTLE DETAILS. BUT LATER, WHEN I'M DOING THE DISHES, IT'LL JUST POP INTO MY HEAD.
KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
YEAH, I GUESS SO. I SWEAR I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING I COULD THINK OF--
YOU KNOW, THERE WAS SOMETHING I DIDN'T MENTION. I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS WHAT YOU MEAN, THOUGH.

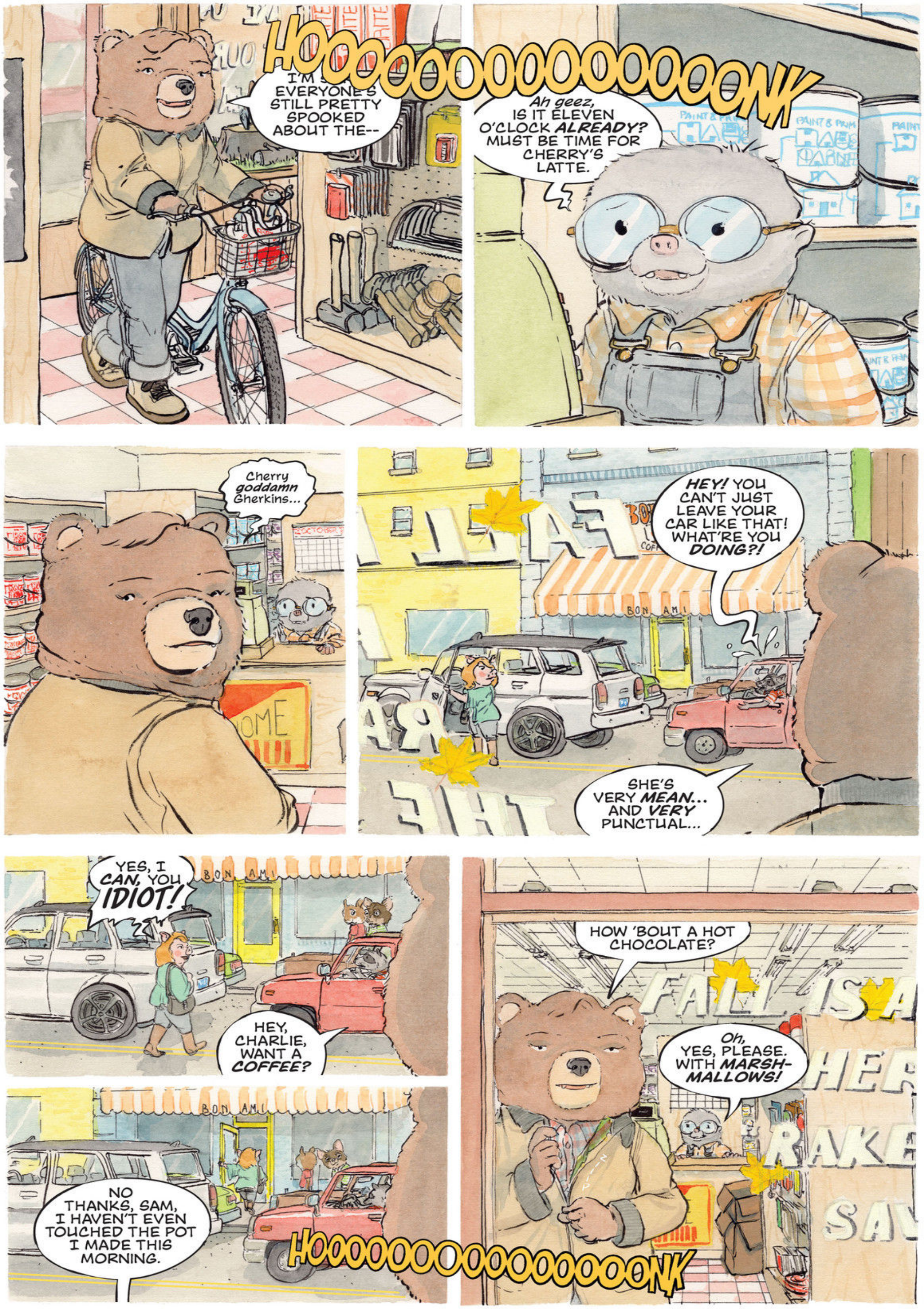

"THE NIGHT BEFORE THE PARADE, I WAS RUSHING TO FINISH UP THE LAST OF THE DECORATIONS. ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS THE LAVENDER.
S.S. WOODBROOK
"*MELODY DAVIS* HAD BEEN HELPING OUT THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS."
ALL RIGHT, BERTIE, I THINK THIS IS THE LAST OF IT.
LET ME KNOW WHAT... *Ah--*
Ah--
-CHOOO!

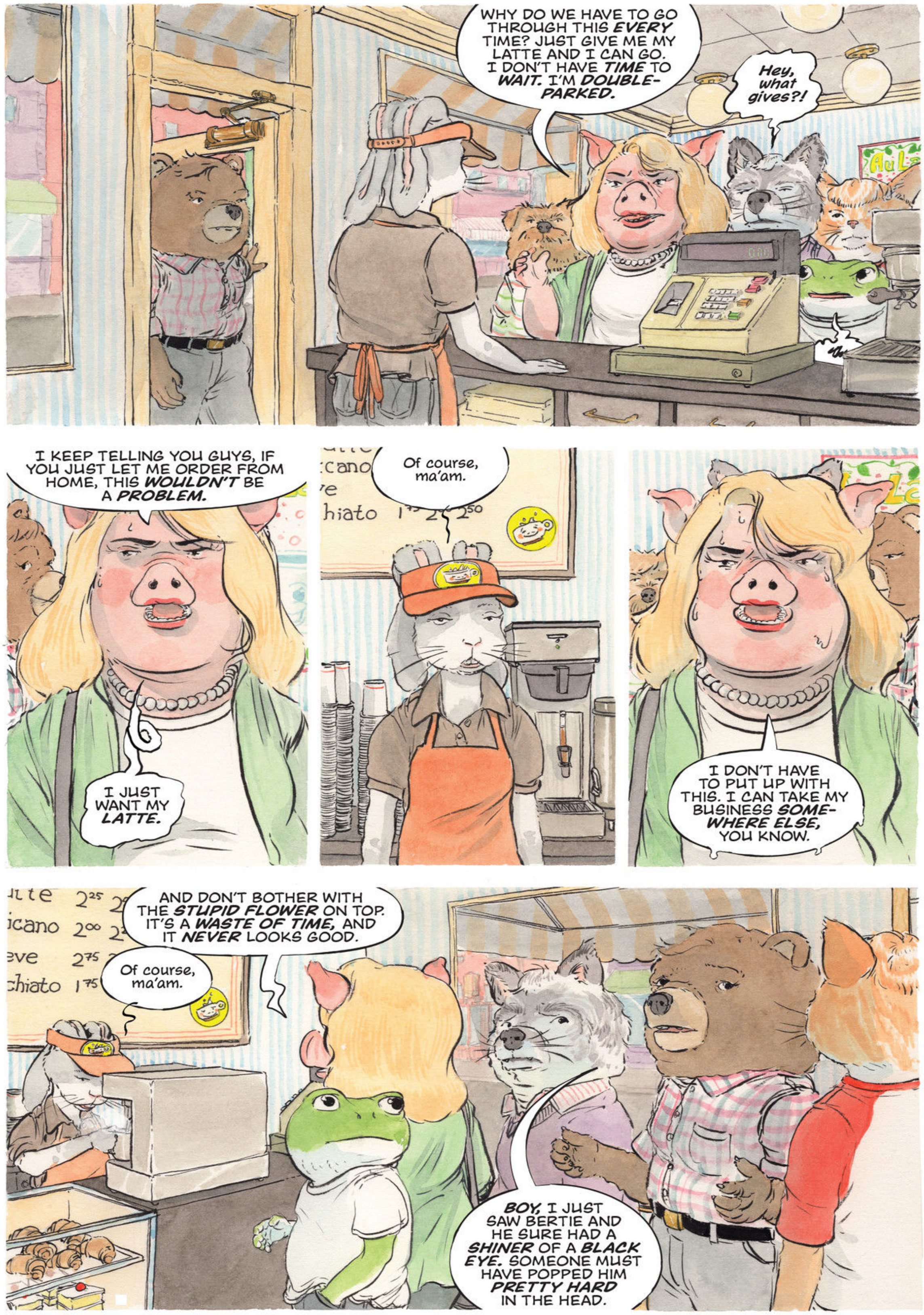

GESUNDHEIT!
MELODY, ARE YOU OKAY?
Sniff
Sorry. IT TURNS OUT I'M REALLY ALLERGIC TO LAVENDER. I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS GONNA BE SO...
...much--
--CHOOOOO!
Oh, MELODY, I DIDN'T KNOW. I CAN HANDLE THE REST OF THIS. YOU GO AHEAD AND GO HOME.
BAY 3
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, AND THANKS AGAIN!
OKAY, SEE YOU AT THE PARADE TOMORROW!
--CHOOO!
Gesundheit.
Melody?

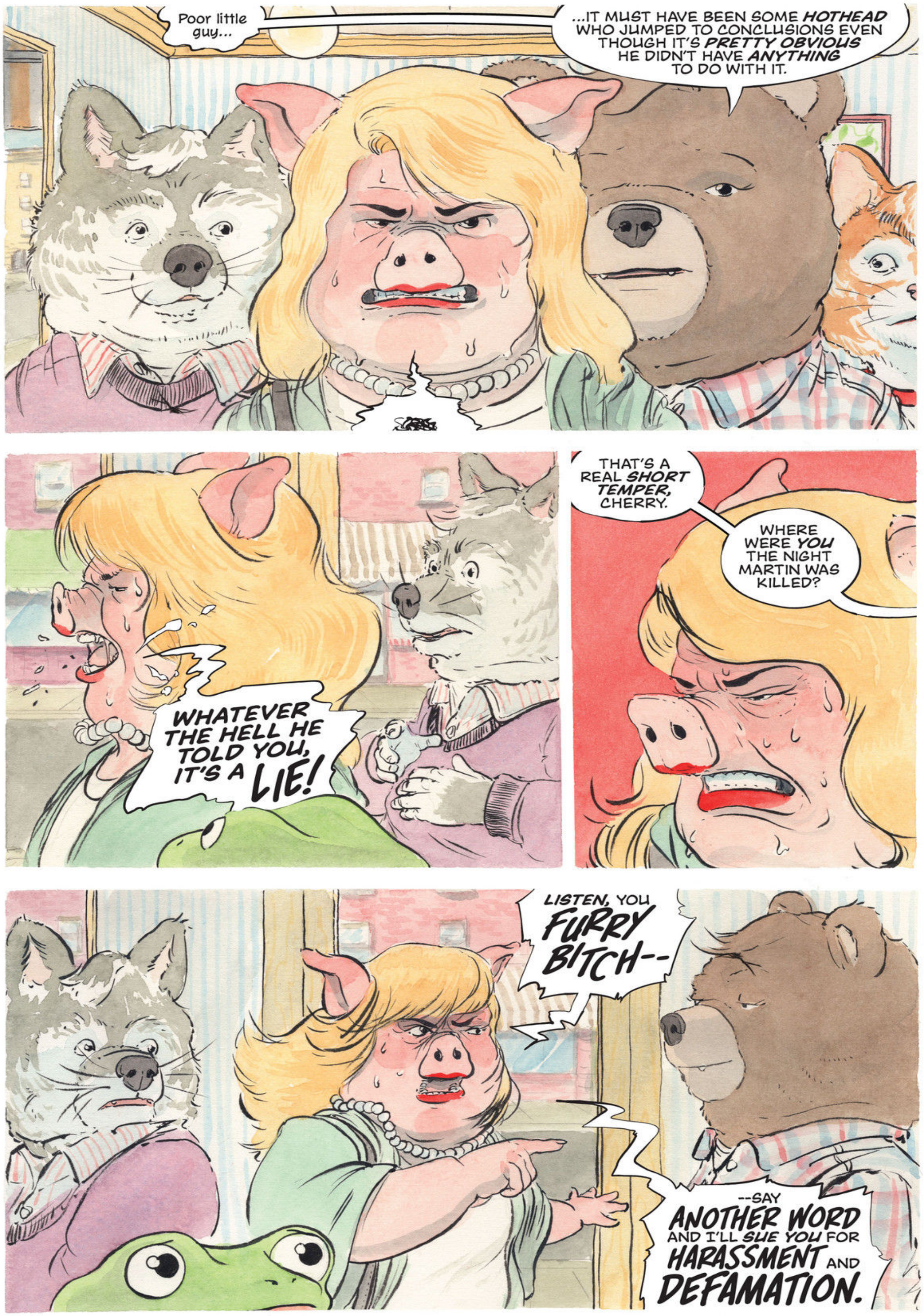

AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST MELODY STILL LEAVING, YOU KNOW?
OR SOMEBODY *ELSE* ALLERGIC TO LAVENDER?
THEN AGAIN, MAYBE IT *WAS* MELODY... HANGING BACK, WAITING FOR YOU TO LEAVE...
NO, YOU DON'T THINK MELODY COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE *THAT...* DO YOU?
COULD BE, BERTIE. SOMETIMES YOU *NEVER KNOW* WHAT FOLKS ARE *CAPABLE OF.*
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT DOESN'T TAKE A BRAINIAC TO KNOW THAT *CHERRY GHERKINS* GAVE YOU THAT *SHINER.*
PLEASE DON'T SAY ANYTHING, SAM.
SHE'LL THINK I *TOLD* ON HER!

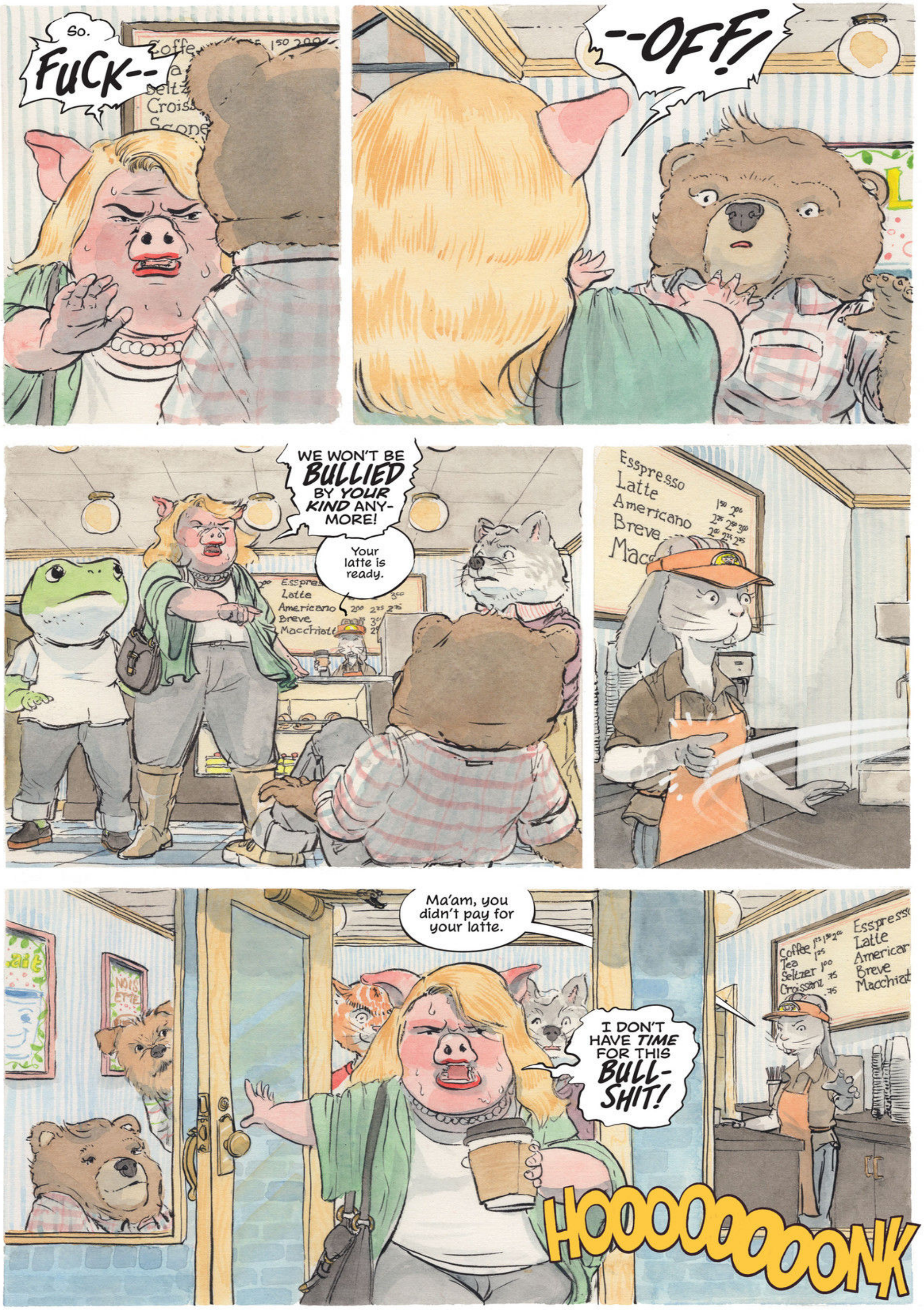

Oh, HEY THERE, SAM. WAS JUST HAVING A FEW WORDS WITH CHARLIE.
ABOUT OUR GREAT DEALS
I'M BACKTRACKING MARTIN'S LAST COUPLE OF DAYS. CHARLIE SAYS YOU WERE HELPING BERTIE WITH SOMETHING ON HIS FLOAT AND THEN YOU LEFT TOWN FOR AN APPOINTMENT.
WorkWe
DO YOU MIND IF I ASK WHAT FOR?
JUST THE REGULAR TRIP I DO UP TO CENTERVILLE EVERY MONTH OR SO. COUPLE OF SHOPS UP THERE I DO BUSINESS WITH. CHARLIE COULD HAVE TOLD YOU THAT.
Oh yeah, HE *DID* TELL ME THAT. MUST BE NICE HEADING THERE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
LET YOURSELF GET LOST IN THE BIG CITY FOR AN HOUR OR TWO...
WELL, I APPRECIATE IT, SAM. I MIGHT BE BACK.
WorkWea
CLICK
ANYTIME, SHERIFF.

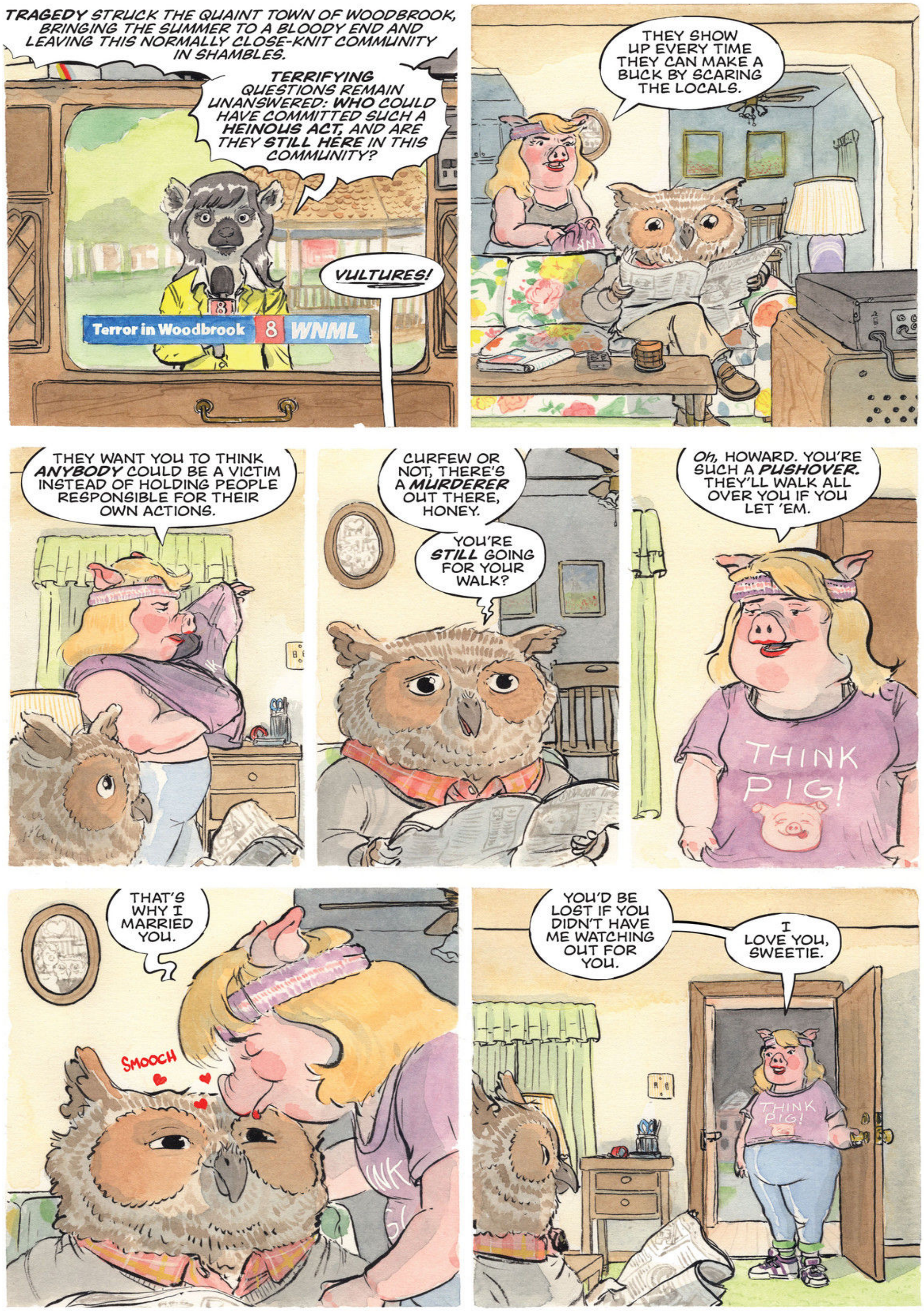

CHARLIE, I'M BACK!
THANKS AGAIN, CHARLIE!
Oh!
D.I.Y. Spy
NOW SMALLER
MINI
HOME SURVEILLANCE
SO SORRY. HERE, YOU DROPPED THIS.
uh...
...thanks!
HOW'S BUSINESS SO FAR?
BUSY, SAM.
DEAD BOLTS, DOOR CHAINS, BARREL BOLTS, FLUSH BOLTS, SLIDE BOLTS, DOOR BARS, PADLOCKS, COMBO LOCKS, BIKE LOCKS, DOOR SENSORS, WINDOW SENSORS, MOTION LIGHTS, SECURITY CAMS...
IT'S BEEN NONSTOP SINCE I OPENED THE DOORS.
HOME

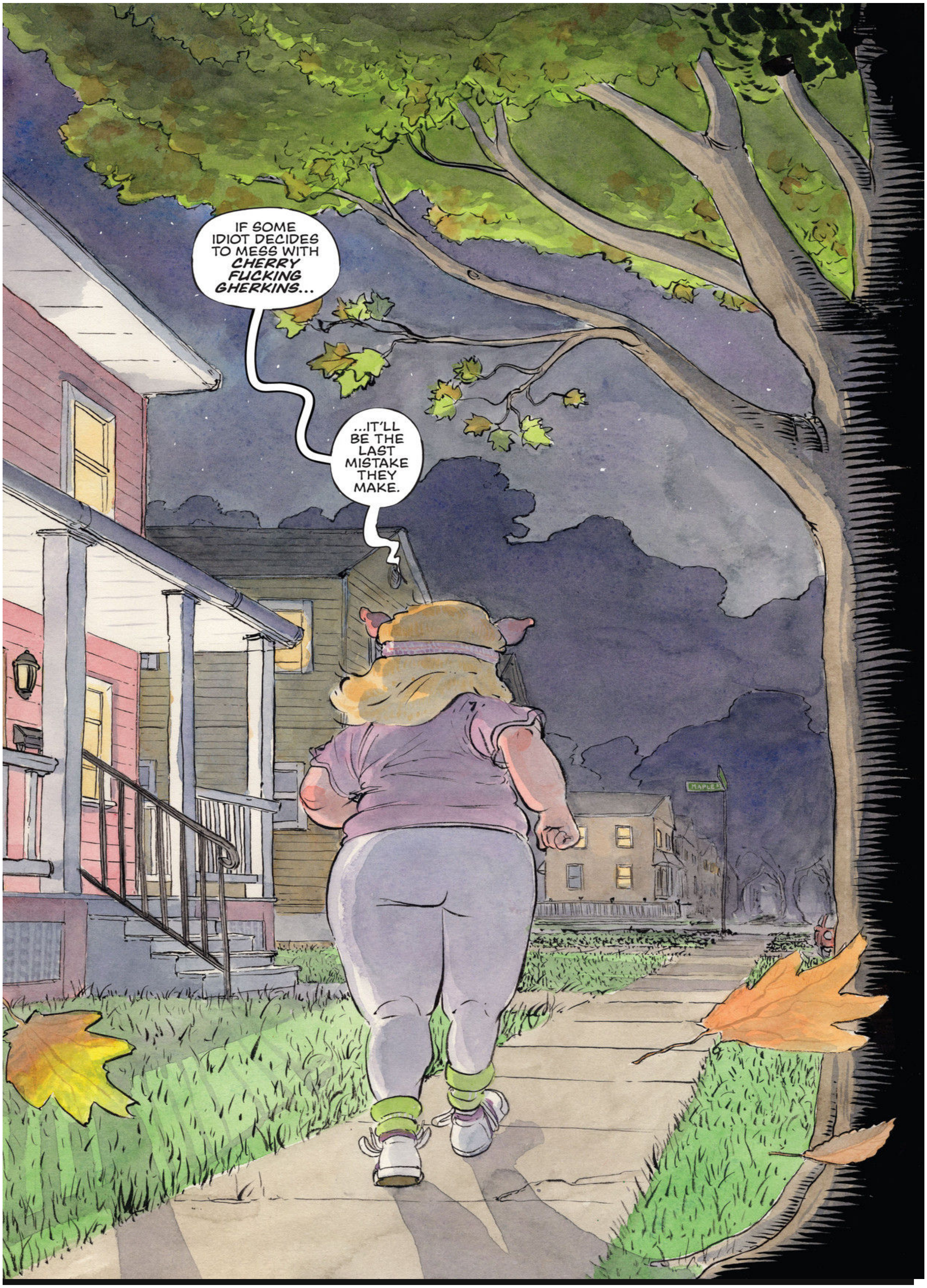

HOOOOOOOOOOOOOOONK
I'M S EVERYONE'S STILL PRETTY SPOOKED ABOUT THE--
Ah geez, IS IT ELEVEN O'CLOCK ***ALREADY?*** MUST BE TIME FOR CHERRY'S LATTE.
Cherry *goddamn* Gherkins...
HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOUR CAR LIKE THAT! WHAT'RE YOU ***DOING?!***
FALL
BON AMI
SHE'S VERY ***MEAN...*** AND ***VERY*** PUNCTUAL...
YES, I ***CAN,*** YOU ***IDIOT!***
HEY, CHARLIE, WANT A ***COFFEE?***
NO THANKS, SAM, I HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED THE POT I MADE THIS MORNING.
HOW 'BOUT A HOT CHOCOLATE?
FALL IS A
Oh, YES, PLEASE. WITH ***MARSH-MALLOWS!***
HER
RAKE
SAV
HOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOONK

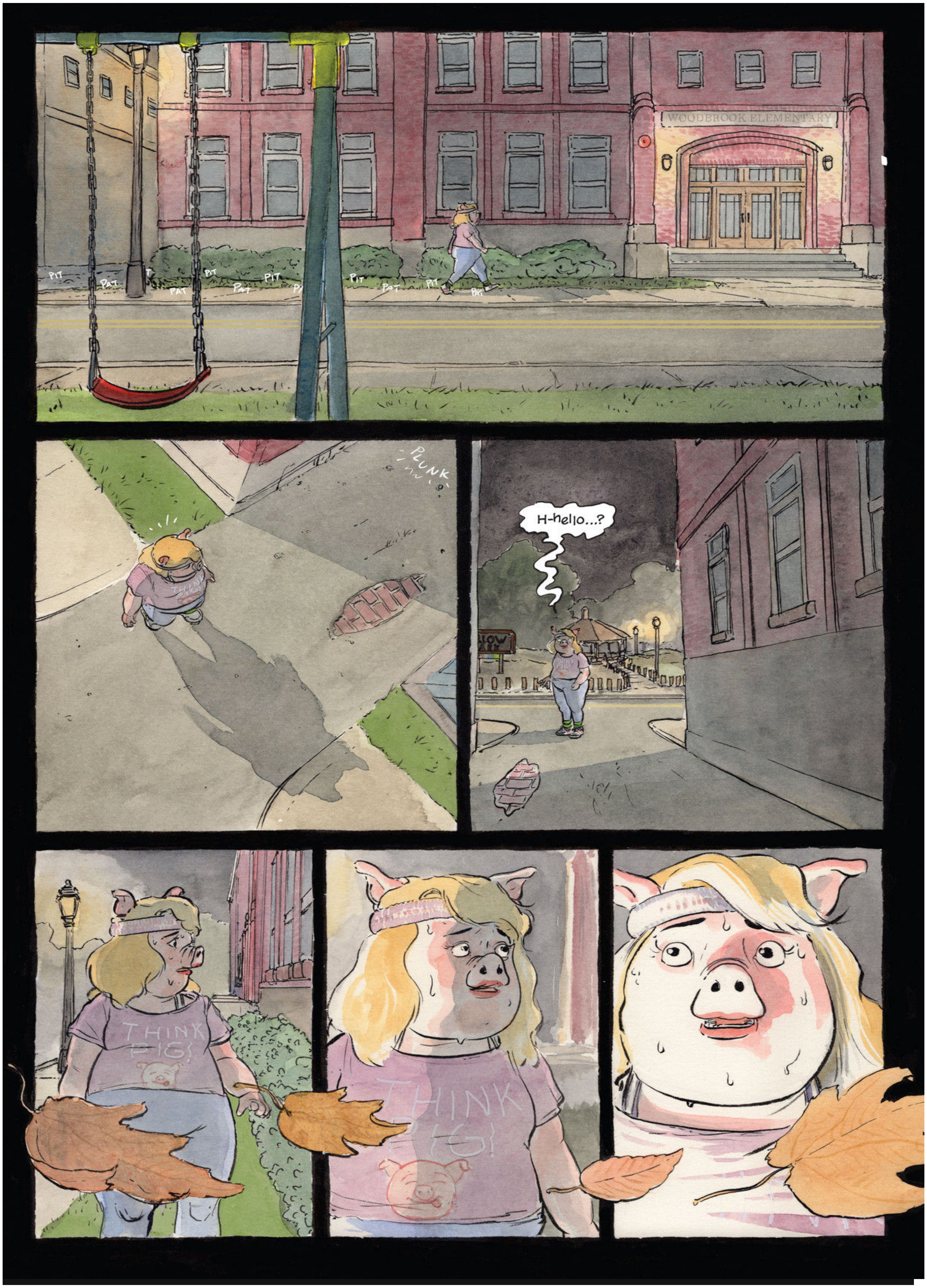

WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS *EVERY* TIME? JUST GIVE ME MY LATTE AND I CAN GO. I DON'T HAVE *TIME* TO *WAIT.* I'M *DOUBLE-PARKED.*
Hey, what gives?!
I KEEP TELLING YOU GUYS, IF YOU JUST LET ME ORDER FROM HOME, THIS *WOULDN'T* BE A *PROBLEM.*
I JUST WANT MY *LATTE.*
Of course, ma'am.
I DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS. I CAN TAKE MY BUSINESS *SOMEWHERE ELSE,* YOU KNOW.
AND DON'T BOTHER WITH THE *STUPID FLOWER* ON TOP. IT'S A *WASTE OF TIME,* AND IT *NEVER* LOOKS GOOD.
Of course, ma'am.
BOY, I JUST SAW BERTIE AND HE SURE HAD A *SHINER* OF A *BLACK EYE.* SOMEONE MUST HAVE POPPED HIM *PRETTY HARD* IN THE HEAD.

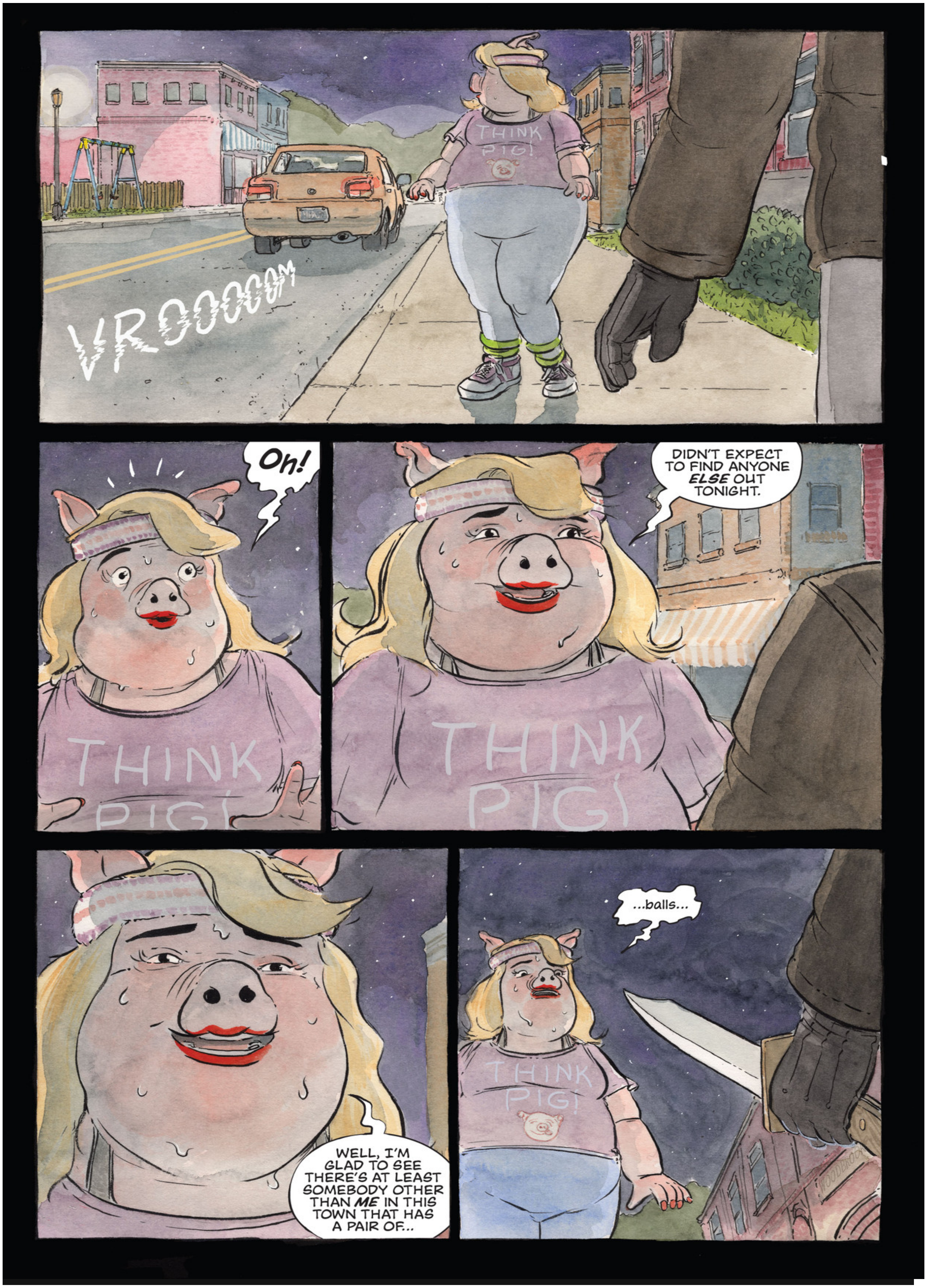

Poor little guy...
...IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME *HOTHEAD* WHO JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS EVEN THOUGH IT'S *PRETTY OBVIOUS* HE DIDN'T HAVE *ANYTHING* TO DO WITH IT.
WHATEVER THE HELL HE TOLD YOU, IT'S A LIE!
THAT'S A REAL *SHORT TEMPER,* CHERRY.
WHERE WERE *YOU* THE NIGHT MARTIN WAS KILLED?
LISTEN, YOU FURRY BITCH--
--SAY ANOTHER WORD AND I'LL *SUE YOU* FOR HARASSMENT AND DEFAMATION.

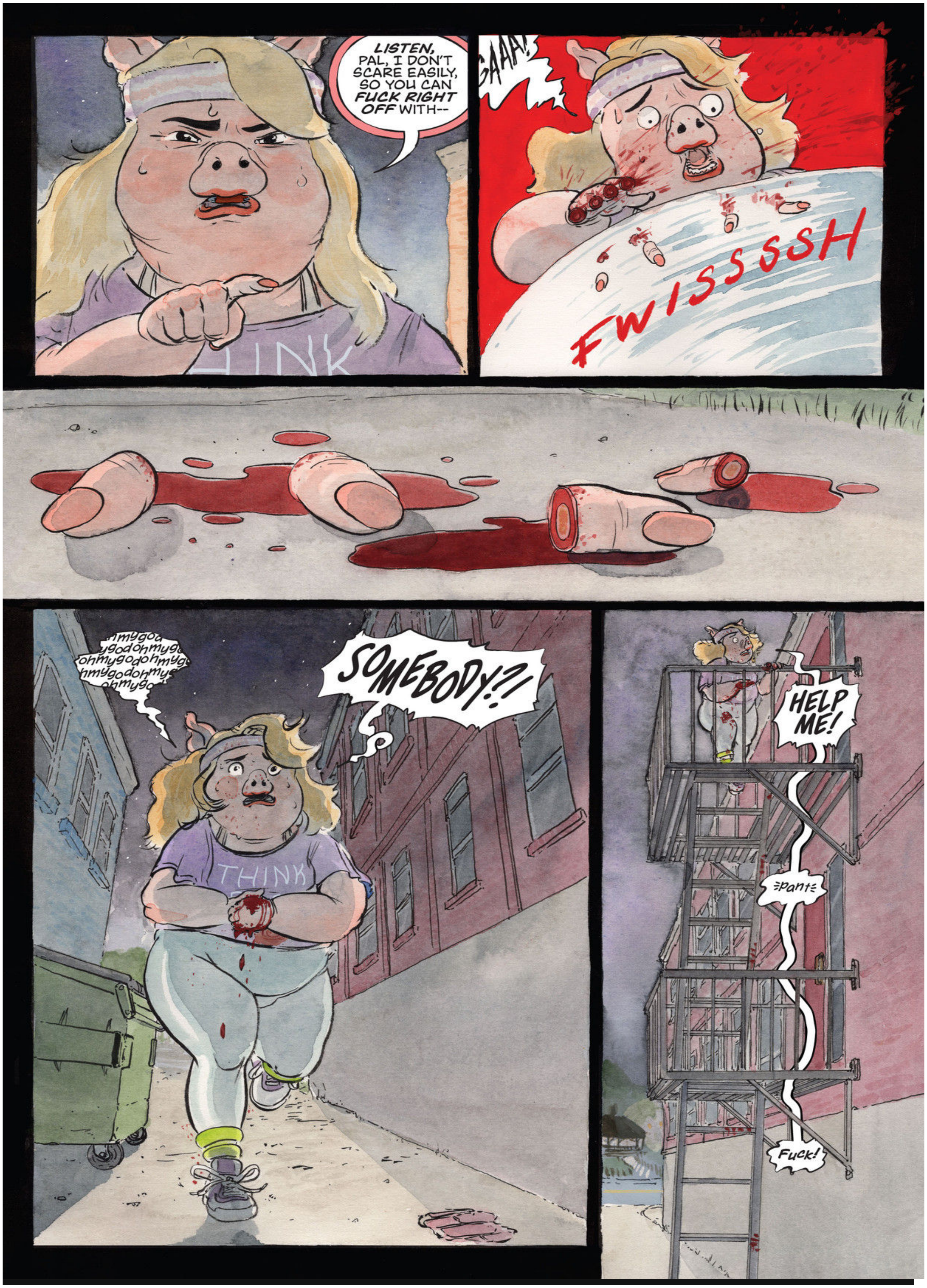

So.
FUCK--
--OFF!
WE WON'T BE BULLIED BY YOUR KIND ANY-MORE!
Your latte is ready.
Esspresso
Latte
Americano
Breve
Macc
Ma'am, you didn't pay for your latte.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS BULL-SHIT!
Coffee
Tea
Seltzer
Croissant
Esspresso
Latte
Americano
Breve
Macchiato
HOOOOOOOOONK

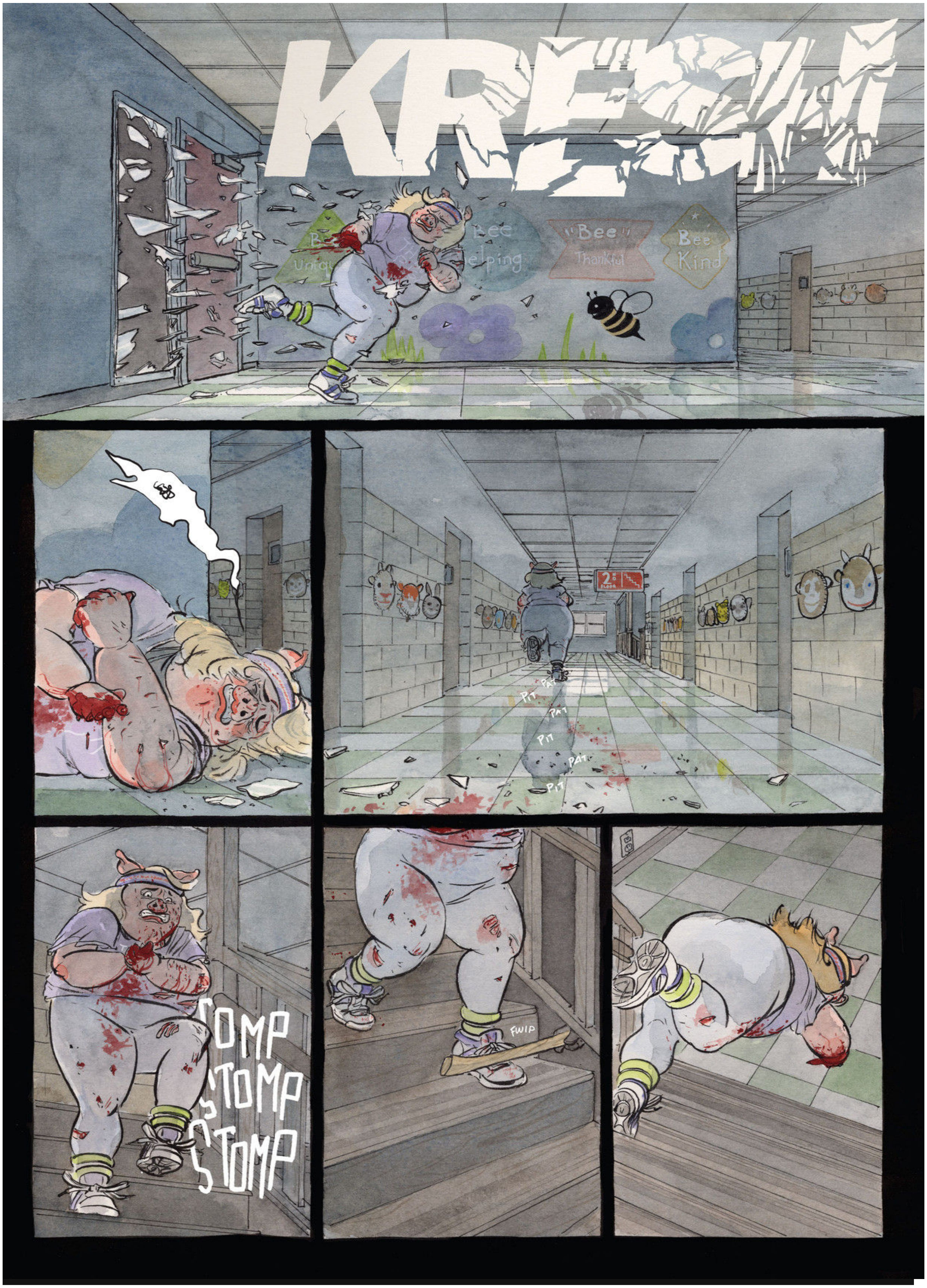

TRAGEDY STRUCK THE QUAINT TOWN OF WOODBROOK, BRINGING THE SUMMER TO A BLOODY END AND LEAVING THIS NORMALLY CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY IN SHAMBLES.
TERRIFYING QUESTIONS REMAIN UNANSWERED: **WHO** COULD HAVE COMMITTED SUCH A **HEINOUS ACT,** AND ARE THEY **STILL HERE** IN THIS COMMUNITY?
Terror in Woodbrook 8 WNML
VULTURES!
THEY SHOW UP EVERY TIME THEY CAN MAKE A BUCK BY SCARING THE LOCALS.
THEY WANT YOU TO THINK **ANYBODY** COULD BE A VICTIM INSTEAD OF HOLDING PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN ACTIONS.
CURFEW OR NOT, THERE'S A **MURDERER** OUT THERE, HONEY.
YOU'RE **STILL** GOING FOR YOUR WALK?
Oh, HOWARD. YOU'RE SUCH A **PUSHOVER.** THEY'LL WALK ALL OVER YOU IF YOU LET 'EM.
THINK PIG!
THAT'S WHY I MARRIED YOU.
SMOOCH
YOU'D BE LOST IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE ME WATCHING OUT FOR YOU.
I LOVE YOU, SWEETIE.
THINK PIG!

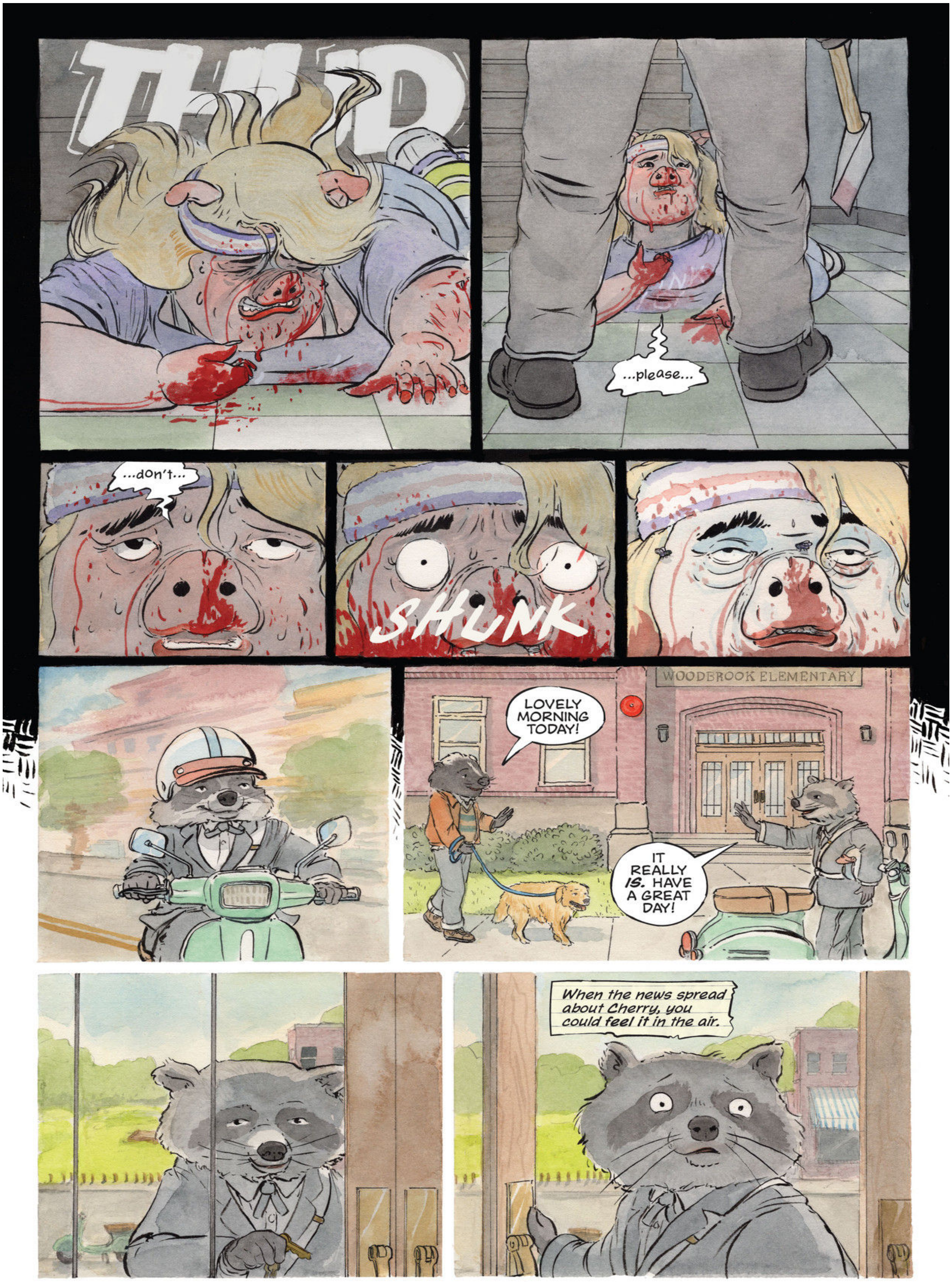

IF SOME IDIOT DECIDES TO MESS WITH ***CHERRY FUCKING GHERKINS...***
...IT'LL BE THE LAST MISTAKE THEY MAKE.
MAPLE ST

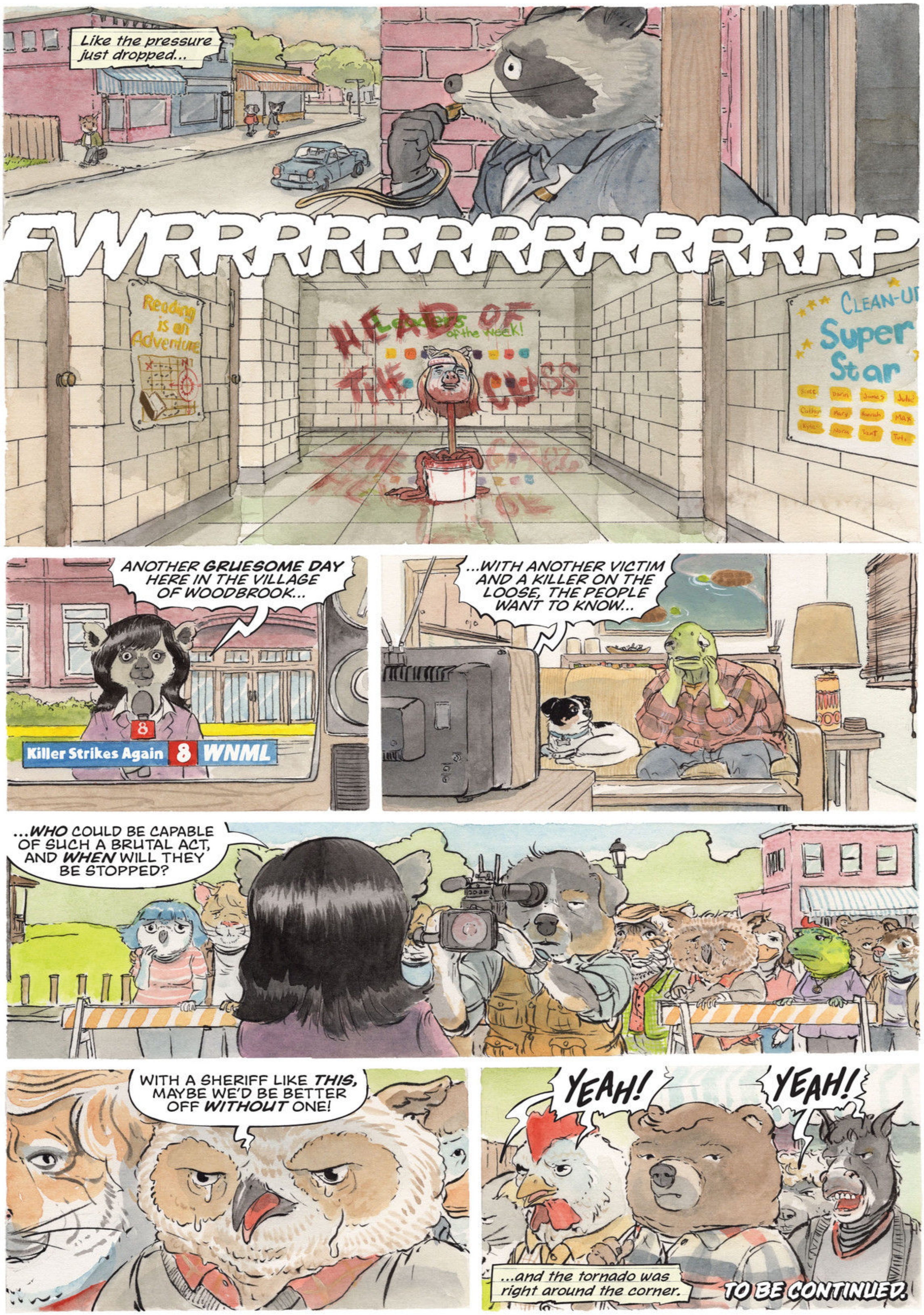

WOODBROOK ELEMENTARY
PIT PAT PIT PAT PIT PAT PIT PAT PIT PAT
PLUNK
H-hello...?
THINK PIG!
THINK PIG!


THINK PIG!
VROOOOOM
Oh!
DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND ANYONE *ELSE* OUT TONIGHT.
WELL, I'M GLAD TO SEE THERE'S AT LEAST SOMEBODY OTHER THAN *ME* IN THIS TOWN THAT HAS A PAIR OF...
...balls...
WOODBROO

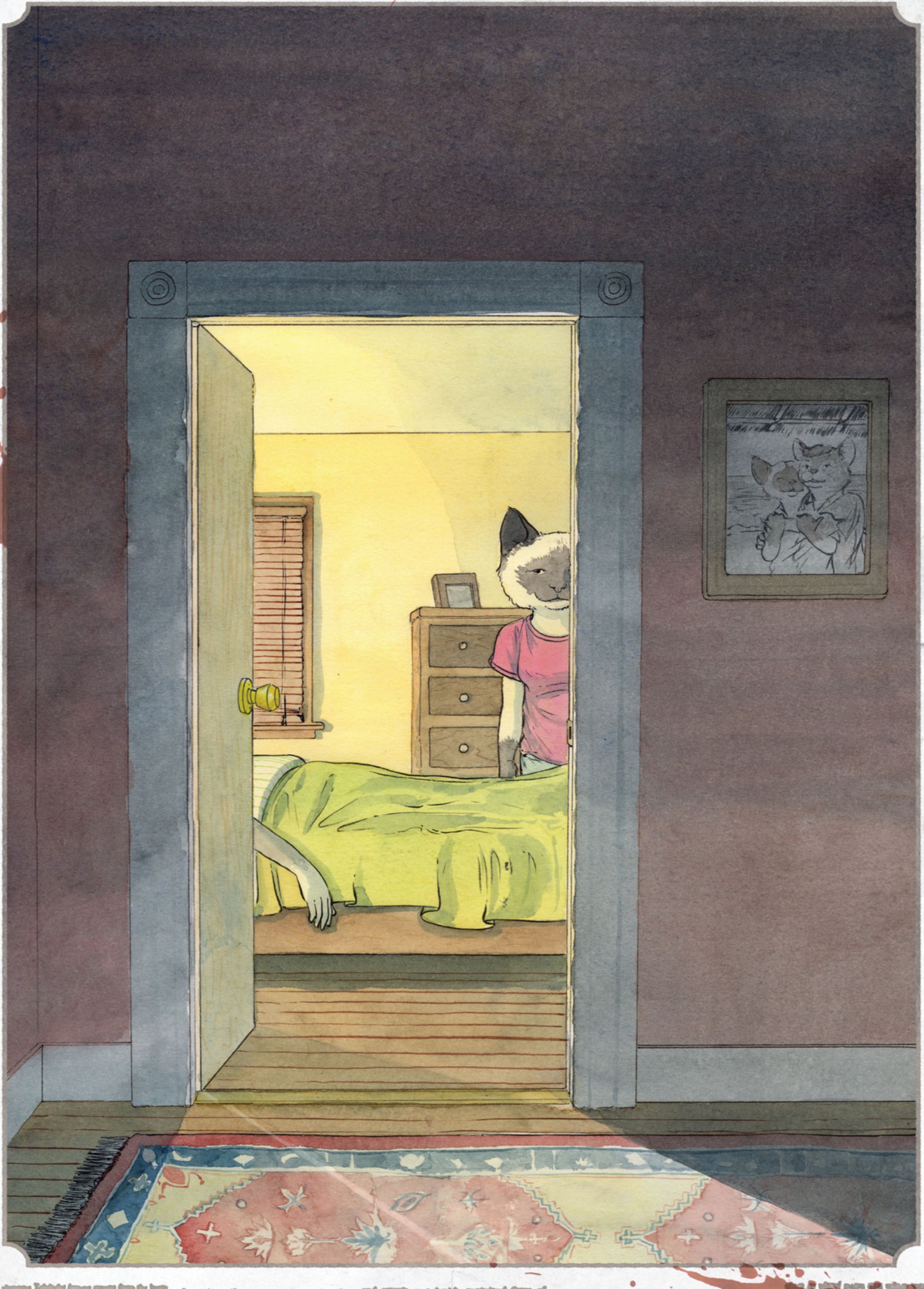

LISTEN, PAL, I DON'T SCARE EASILY, SO YOU CAN ***FUCK RIGHT OFF*** WITH--
GAAA!
FWISSSSH
HINK
mygod ygodohmyg ohmygodohmyg hmygodohmy ohmyg
SOMEBODY!?!
THINK
HELP ME!
pant
Fuck!

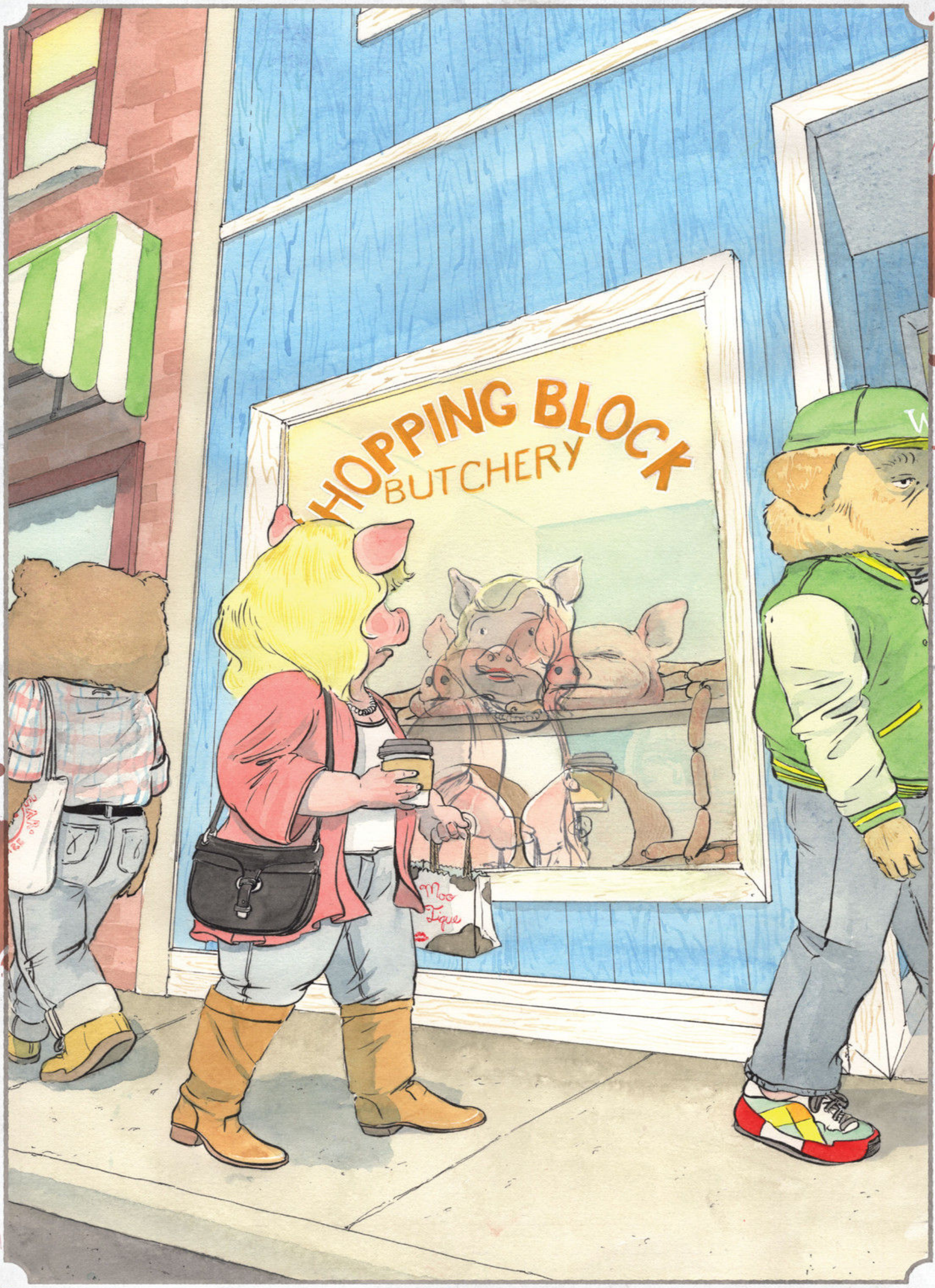

KRESH
B
Uniq
Bee
elping
"Bee"
Thankful
Bee
Kind
2ND
FLOOR
PIT
PAT
PIT
PAT
PIT
PAT
PIT
OMP
STOMP
STOMP
FWIP


THUD
...please...
...don't...
SHUNK
WOODBROOK ELEMENTARY
LOVELY MORNING TODAY!
IT REALLY *IS.* HAVE A GREAT DAY!
When the news spread about Cherry, you could *feel* it in the air.


Like the pressure just dropped...
FWRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRP
Reading is an Adventure
HEAD OF THE CLASS
Leaders of the week!
CLEAN-U
Super Star
Scott
Darin
James
Julie
Mary
Hannah
Max
Kyle
ANOTHER GRUESOME DAY HERE IN THE VILLAGE OF WOODBROOK...
8
Killer Strikes Again 8 WNML
...WITH ANOTHER VICTIM AND A KILLER ON THE LOOSE, THE PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW...
...WHO COULD BE CAPABLE OF SUCH A BRUTAL ACT, AND WHEN WILL THEY BE STOPPED?
WITH A SHERIFF LIKE THIS, MAYBE WE'D BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ONE!
YEAH!
YEAH!
...and the tornado was right around the corner.
TO BE CONTINUED.

NEXT ISSUE

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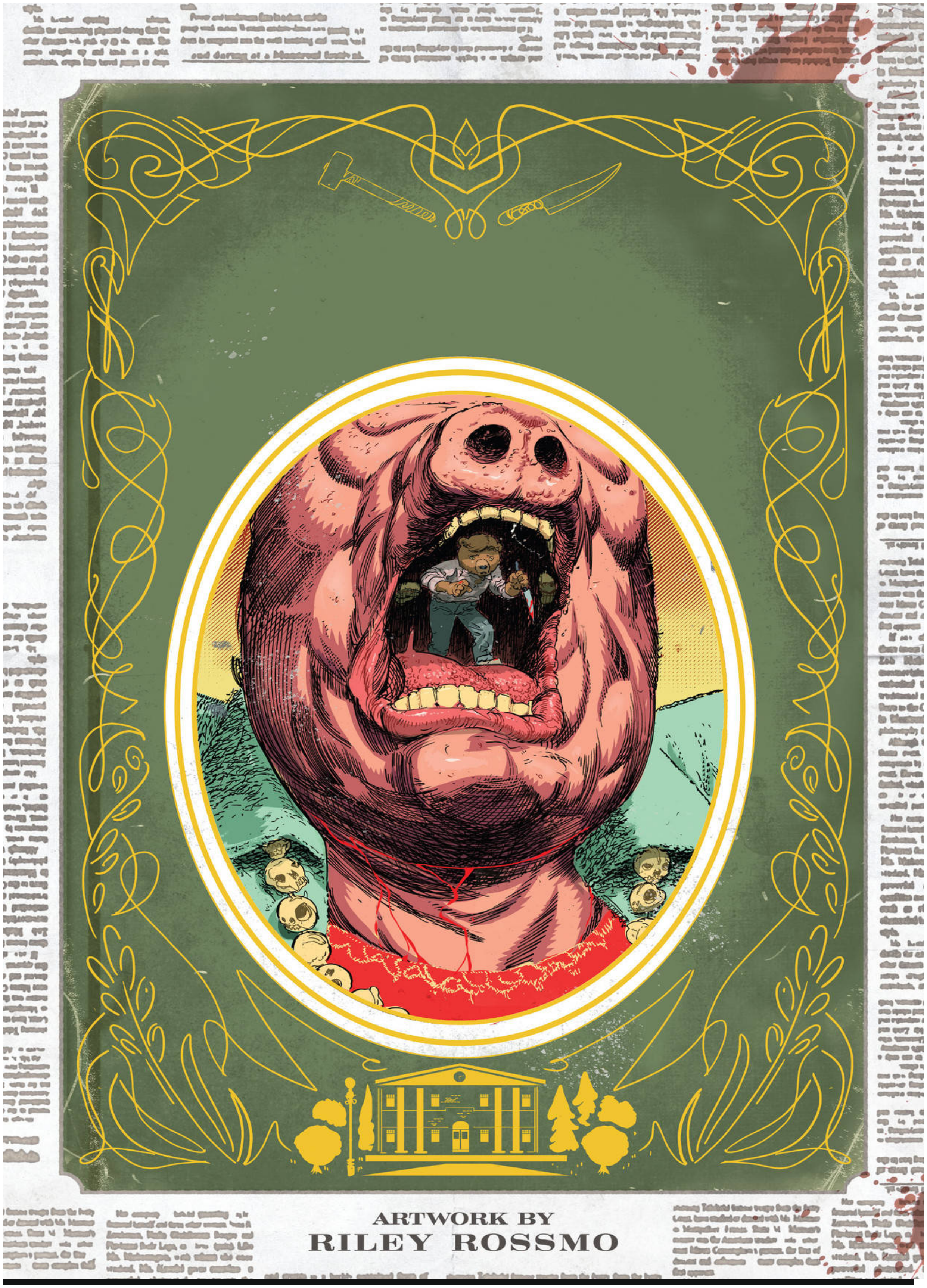

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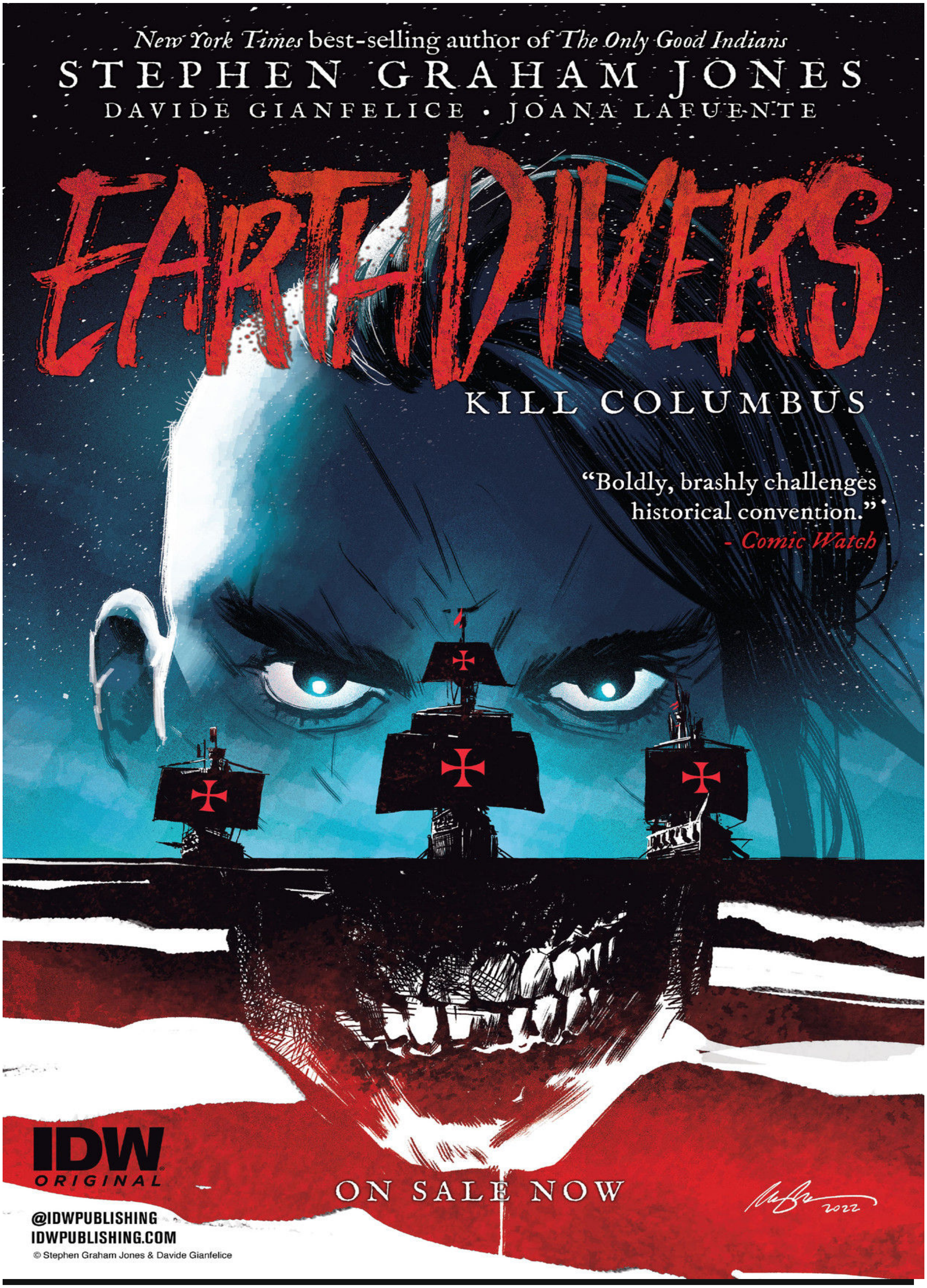

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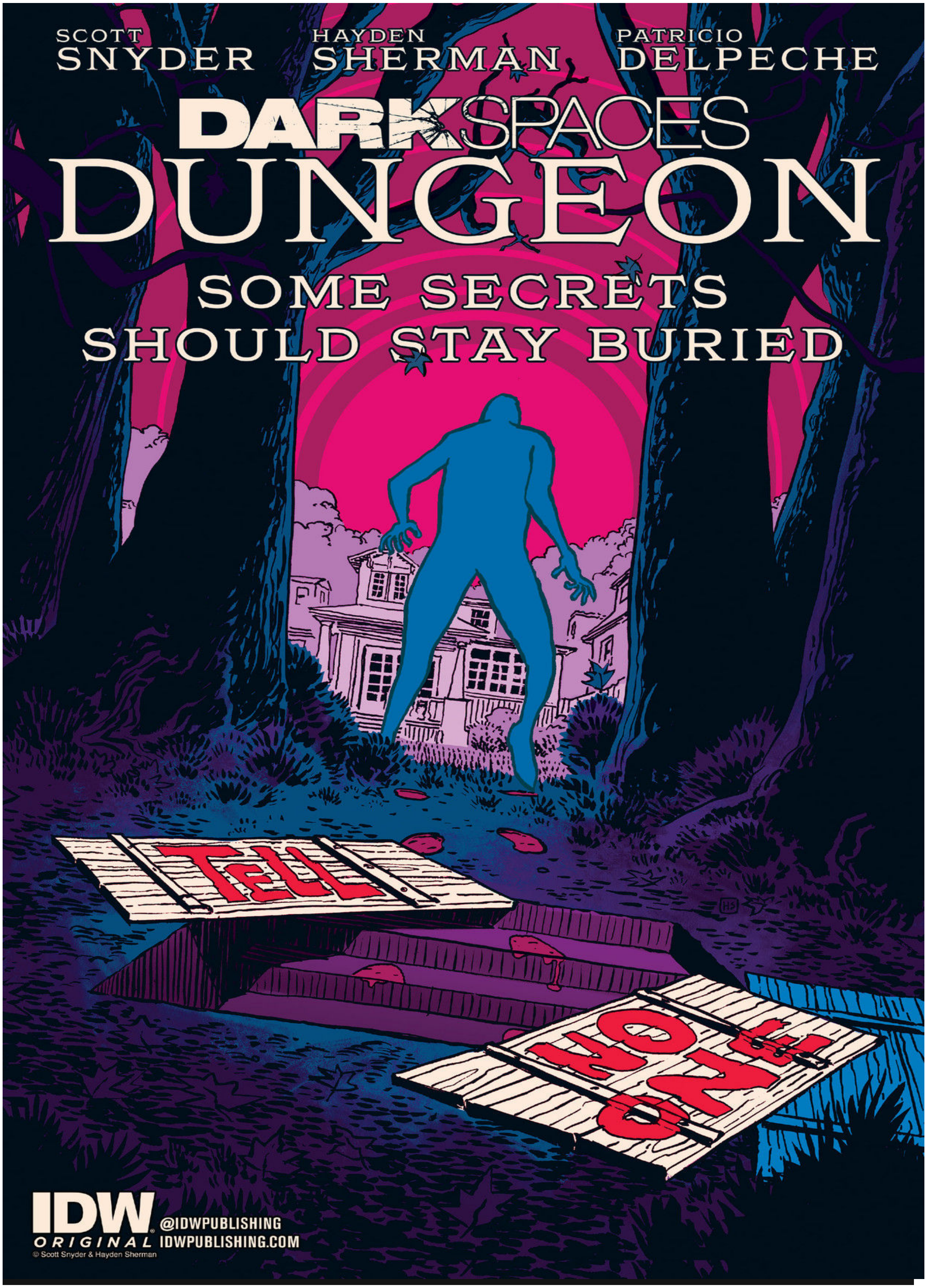
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